

HISTORY OF EALMPTON

(DEVONSHIRE)

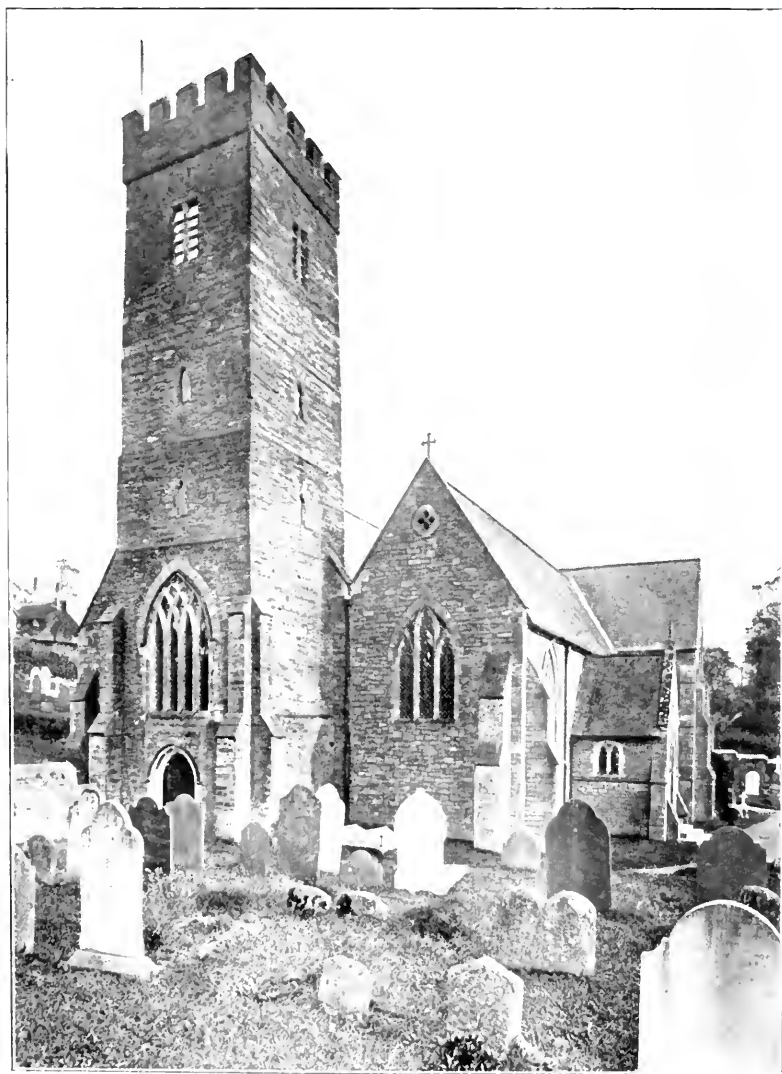


Rev. H. J. WARNER, M.A.



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Yealmpton Church from the South-west.

A
HISTORY OF YEALMPTON
(DEVONSHIRE)

BY

The Rev. H. J. WARNER, M.A.,
Vicar of Yealmpton.

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Plymouth :

The "Western Morning News" Co., Ltd., Printers, 31, George Street,
and North Street.

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PREFACE.

IN venturing to put forth this history of the Parish of Yealmpton, no one is more conscious than the author of those defects which, in pioneer work, are almost inevitable. His object will have been attained if these very faults should stir another to compile a history so complete and accurate as to supersede this first attempt.

Meanwhile, no apology need be made for endeavouring to put people in possession of a record of the parish in which they live, or with which they are intimately associated, and to tell them the parochial

"Traditions of the saint and sage,
Tales that have the rime of age,
And chronicles of eld."

Such knowledge must surely give us a wider view of things, quicken and deepen interest in the present by noting its connection with the past, furnish material for thought and conversation, and stimulate comparison and inquiry.

In this parochial record, many now living will recognise their forbears, and realise that what their fathers did "in the old time before them," in the ordinary course of daily duty, has not been lost in Lethe's stream, but survives in forms from which they themselves derive benefit. This should encourage us not to "despise the day of small things," but "to do our duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call us."

For

"Time is hastening on, and we
What our fathers were, shall be,
Shadow-shapes of memory.

Who shall work for us as well
The antiquarian's miracle?
Who shall give to me and thee
Freeholds in futurity?"

For assistance in collecting material for this work, the author begs to tender his very hearty thanks to, amongst others, Mr. Kershaw, the Librarian of Lambeth Palace: Mr. Hubert Hall and other officials, of the Public Record Office: Mr. Burch, of the Exeter Diocesan Registrar's Office: and especially to Prebendary Hingeston-Randolph, Rector of Ringmore. His "Episcopal Registers of the Diocese of Exeter" have furnished information otherwise inaccessible: in the preparation of this work, his advice was never sought in vain, and he most kindly read through the manuscript when completed, and suggested many improvements which have been gratefully adopted.

A HISTORY OF YEALMPTON.

CHAPTER I.

THE PARISH.



OUR parish has taken nearly a thousand years to make up its mind how to spell its name, but it cannot be congratulated upon the result of this protracted deliberation. The stranger in our midst, assuming that the name is to be pronounced as it is spelt, conscientiously attempts to get in all the consonants and vowels, and the effort makes havoc of his powers of articulation. More than a dozen different forms occur, and not one exactly represents the accepted pronunciation of Yampton. The origin of the name is purely conjectural. It has been suggested that, in its fullest form, it should be Haylehamton, *i.e.*, the town on the Ham by the Hale or Yale (= a rapid river).*

But whence came we? A well-known dusky heroine in an American classic, on being asked a similar question, replied: "I 'spect I growed." Our knowledge of our origin is equally speculative. We cannot tell whether the first inhabitants came from the sea or from the inland. Perhaps we are of amphibious descent. The position and extent of the parish suggest this. In those far-off ages, and for centuries after, the parish of Yealmpton was much more extensive than at the present time. It embraced the parishes of Revelstoke and Newton Ferrers, and part of Brixton. It was thus possessed not only of the sea-coast as its southern boundary, but of nearly the whole of the estuary of the Yealm in which are comprised Newton, Puslinch, and Cosslete creeks. The river Yealm winds through the middle of this district, and thus the inhabitants could support themselves by sea and river fisheries. The rich arable and pasture lands would afford abundant supplies of other food; while the woods and quarries of the neighbourhood would furnish all the materials required for boats and buildings.

We should much like to identify some of these early settlers with the great ones of the land, but our vanity is not gratified by sober history. The tradition—that a Saxon King lived in a palace on the south side of the churchyard, and that his lieutenant (Lipsius) lies buried there—begins with Risdon in

* H and Y are constantly interchanged in place-names. In the present day a small district in Yealmpton is called indiscriminately Herne and Yarne.

his "Survey of Devon," and there it must end. It must be relegated to the realms of fable, not dignified with the title of history.

On the other hand, in the "Goreus" stone which is now, and, as far as is known, always has been in the churchyard, we possess, according to the best authorities, a relic of pre-Saxon, *i.e.*, of British or Irish Christianity. There are four other similar inscribed stones in Devonshire, viz., at Tavistock, Buckland Monachorum, Stowford, and Lustleigh; and of these, the Yealmpton stone is supposed to be the most ancient, both from the rude character of the letters, and the absence of any cross.*

There are no remains of a Saxon *Church* at Yealmpton, nor need this cause surprise. The Saxons seldom built churches. They were accustomed to hold their meetings, as well sacred as secular, in the open air. In support of this may be quoted S. Willibald's *Hodæporicon*, or the *Guide-book* of S. Willibald:—

"It is the custom of the Saxon races that, on many of the estates of nobles and good men, they are wont to have not a church but a standard of the holy cross dedicated to our Lord, and revered with great honour, lifted up on high so as to be convenient for the frequenting of daily prayer."

The authoress of this treatise is a lady named Walpurga, niece of the great Boniface of Crediton, and of Willibald whose journeyings it describes, and daughter of Winna, their sister, who was a grand-daughter of a Saxon of Crediton. This family connection warrants us in believing that the writer is describing, in any case, the customs of the *West* Saxons. The date of the book is circ. A.D. 750. About one hundred years, however, before the Norman Conquest, the nobles began to erect oratories, which in course of time often reached the dignity of parochial churches. Such may have been the origin of Yealmpton Church, for the old font, of late Saxon date, is still preserved in the church,† and from the font we infer the existence of a church. This inference is further strengthened by the particulars of the parish furnished in Domesday Book. All parishes which make any claim to antiquity hurry to Domesday to see if they have the distinction of being mentioned therein. It is often the first authentic piece of history a parish possesses. This distinction is enjoyed by Yealmpton. In Devonshire there were twelve Crown Lordships, of which Yealmpton was one. When the Saxons conquered South Devon (A.D. 925), Athelstan gave away much land of "middling" quality to churches and nobles, but retained nearly all the official centres (see the "*Terræ Regis*" of Domesday) and most bad land

* A sixth, discovered at Fardell, is now in the British Museum.

† At the "restoration" or rather rebuilding of the church in 1852, it was taken to the vicarage, where it was used as a flower-pot. It was returned to the church by the Rev. G. G. Woodhouse.

(which nobody would accept) as Crown property. Among these official centres was Yealmpton or Elintona, and in the entry in Domesday a distinction is made between the property of the King and that of the *Church*.

"The clergy of the same township have one hide. There is in the demesne one plough-team, and two serfs, and three villans, and four bordars with one plough-team. There are two acres of arable land, and ten acres of pasturage. Its value is ten shillings. The King conceded it to them in alms." (Exchequer Copy.)*

Here we have historical evidence not only of the existence of clergy at Yealmpton but also of church endowment. But the existence of a church as a *building* can only be inferred. Still the evidence upon which that inference is based amounts practically to a certainty. On the other hand, it is probable that the church, if it existed at the Norman Conquest, was comparatively a new one. Its Saxon predecessor was most likely destroyed by the Danes. For, according to Roger de Hoveden, the Danes, in A.D. 996 sailed up the Tamar as far as Lydford, pillaging and burning the great abbey of Tavistock on their way. "A very great number of villages were burnt and many persons slaughtered Five years after their first visit they ravaged the whole of Devon, committing even greater depredations than before." As these marauders turned the prows of their boats into the Sound, the *first* opening into the land would be the river Yealm. The peril of Yealmpton at once becomes obvious, especially as the Danes displayed a grim fondness for everything and everybody ecclesiastical. It would be too much to expect that the village and church, in view of their situation, would escape their notice. There is no reason why Yealmpton should *not* have had its church. It certainly was a place of some importance. This is proved (i.) by its having *several* clergy as stated in Domesday, (ii.) by its being a Crown Lordship, (iii.) by its hidage being two-and-a-half hides, the average of Devon manors being only one-and-a-half hides. At the time of the Conquest it had expanded into 20 carucates, the average for Devon being nine carucates. But whether the first church was British, Saxon, or Norman, not a vestige of it now remains.

* The Exeter Copy is fuller: "And the priests of the same township have one hide of land, and they have therein three virgates, and one plough-team in their demesne; and the villans have one virgate and one plough-team, and three villans (*sic*) and four bordars and two serfs and four animals and ten pigs and thirty-one sheep and two fields of arable land and ten fields of pasture. These are valued at ten shillings and this the king has conceded in alms."

CHAPTER II.

THE CHURCH.

THE earliest historical mention of the church occurs in a Charter [c. A.D. 1225], under which the Bishop of Salisbury agreed with the Bishop of Exeter to exchange Kenton and West Alvington for King's Teignton and Yealmpton, with their respective churches and chapelries. The chapelry belonging to Yealmpton was Revelstoke, and the existence of this daughter very materially strengthens the evidence already produced for the great antiquity of the mother church. Nothing, however, of this building probably now remains. The tower, the oldest part of the present church, is of much later date. A sketch of the south side, made by Mr. H. Incedon Johns, in 1815, shews a small window in the east wall of the Kitley aisle, which was probably a Lazar window, but, if so, it was demolished, with much else, at the restoration (?) of the church in 1849-1852. A recess in the north transept, which appears in an engraving dated A.D. 1808, and which still remains, bears a strong resemblance to an Easter Sepulchre, the altar-tomb and the mural brasses now occupying it having been removed thither from the Kitley aisle within the last few years.* The porch was embattled, and contained a parvise used as a vestry, which was reached by steps from the outside. Above the entrance doorway was a sun-dial, and above that again, the parvise window. Galleries existed in the Kitley aisle and in the tower, the former for the squire and his family and servants, as well as for the tenant of Bowden; the latter—which was erected in 1826—for the school children and the choir. The choir, with the organ, occupied the middle of it, and the school children the sides—boys on the south and girls on the north. Organ *pipes* are mentioned in the Churchwardens' Accounts of the early part of the 17th century, but there is no reference to the organ as a complete instrument. From these same accounts we gather that there was a high altar.† There was a chalice with a cover of silver (perhaps the same as that mentioned in the Inventory of Church Goods in 1552), a tinning pot and a bottle for the wine. A *steeple* is mentioned, but this is synonymous with "tower," but not with "spire." The tower was rough-cast in 1671 from top to bottom at a cost

* Others are of opinion that it is only a recess for an altar-tomb, long unoccupied, because such sepulchres are not found in transepts.

† See also Chapter III., p. 13.

of £14. The interior of the church was white-washed, but on one occasion we find that it was "flourished," viz, in 1637. The windows were glazed and leaded, but gave constant trouble. The pulpit was Jacobean, and was furnished with cushion and hour-glass. There were three bells, one of which was re-cast in 1640. The present bells are six in number, and are of later date. In addition to the furniture detailed in the inventories, we may mention the King's Arms, a table of affinity and consanguinity, a stoup, a bason for baptisms, a bier, a parish ladder, butts and mats. In the vestry some pieces of carved wood-work have been used for making the table and press, but whether they formed originally part of the pulpit or of the seats, it is impossible now to discover.

The Dean Rural's Book furnishes us with some particulars of the condition of the church before re-building or "restoration" in A.D. 1849-1852. Seats were allotted to the different farms in the parish, but they are only mentioned when out of repair. There is frequent complaint of the dampness of the church. Some of the windows had wooden mullions, and were much decayed. The west door was so bad as not to be worth repairing, and the porch door was not much better. The east end was adorned with a reredos or screen, displaying the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments; but they were very indistinct, and some of the Commandments were hidden by the Holy Table. The rail was placed round, and not parallel with the Holy Table, to afford more room for kneeling. The floor of the church was uneven, and the vestry was so dilapidated that the clergy could not use it. Some of the pews had remnants of old carved work upon them. The clerk's Prayer Book was completely worn out, and the minister's almost so. The Dean Rural made the naïve suggestion that the minister should be provided with a new book, and the clerk have the minister's old one!

In the year 1846-1847 the church was re-roofed, but the old walls were too weak to bear the weight, and re-building was absolutely necessary. Accordingly, at a vestry meeting held on January 15th, 1849, the churchwardens, Messrs. Thomas Parnell and Henry Ford, were empowered, with the consent of the Bishop and Vicar, to borrow £1,000 on the security of the Church Rates. The loan was obtained from Mr. Hurrell, of Ham, Loddiswell, to be repaid in ten years, with interest at the rate of five per cent. The rest of the cost was borne by Mr. E. R. P. Bastard. The architect chosen was the famous Mr. W. Butterfield, who was then only thirty-five years of age. Apparently, no expense was to be spared, and the work was begun and continued on a most lavish scale. But alas! it was never finished. Mr. Bastard "went over" to Rome, and the re-building of the church, together with what is now the Infant School, abruptly ceased. For half a century nothing has been done to complete what was then so well commenced, and it is really difficult to ascertain from the existing features how the architect intended to proceed.

Writing in May, 1899, Mr. Butterfield said :—" I remember with pleasure the visions there once were of finishing the work which Mr. Bastard once contemplated. . . . The drawings have all been destroyed." Possibly, *copies* of these drawings may, one day, come to light. Should this ever happen, it is to be hoped that funds will be forthcoming to complete the church according to the original plan.

Although no account has been published or preserved of this most important event in the history of the church and parish, several interesting particulars have been gleaned from old men who worked at the rebuilding. Tons of earth were removed from the floor of the church, and the space was filled with concrete, thus restoring the floor to its original level. The old memorial stones in the church were buried under the steps leading from the south gate of the churchyard, and were replaced by others in the same positions. The north wall of the church is not solid, but the space between the inner and outer walls is filled with rubble. The work of demolition began at the porch, but so hard was the mortar that it was found easier to split the solid stones than to separate one from the other. All the marble for the work came from the Kitley Quarries. The slab which forms the top of the Holy Table was cut from a block of limestone weighing seven tons. Several days were occupied in loading it upon the wagon, and it took seven horses to haul it to the church, where it was worked and polished. The blocks of stone forming each pillar in the arcades were fastened together by an iron rod passing through their centres; and, after being worked, they were taken away, polished as the design required, and then set block by block upon the base.

Mr. Bastard died in 1856, and in 1860 the east window was inserted in token of the esteem in which he was held by the parishioners. The contributions exceeding the cost of the window, the smaller (south) window in the chancel was added to the memorial, and bears the following inscription :—

"The Eastern Window of this Chancel was erected by his friends and neighbours, alike rich and poor, to the singularly beloved memory of Edmund Rodney Pollexfen Bastard, of Kitley, who restored and beautified this church in 1851. He departed this life June 12th, 1856, aged 31 years."

Amongst recent improvements and gifts may be mentioned the following :—

1852—A silver-gilt communion set. (A paten *en suite* was presented by Mrs. W. E. P. Bastard in 1905 in memory of her father.)

1879—Renewal of the organ and bells at a cost of £118.

1886—New corona (replacing wooden ones).

1902—Enlargement of organ (£210) and relaying of lead gutters.

1903—Extension of churchyard, the ground being given by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

CHAPTER III.

"TARES AMONG THE WHEAT."

HE tried to write true history," is the legend upon the statue of Dr. Mandell Creighton, Bishop of London, in St. Paul's Cathedral; and such must be the object of every historian, whether he write the history of the Papacy or of the parish. He would prefer to associate the church with all that is "godly, righteous, and sober," and suppress all that is contrary to these. But the historic truth, however unpleasant, must be told, if he would be loyal to his task. Because the parish church enters so largely into the every-day life of the people, it sometimes becomes the scene of conduct which is utterly foreign to its sacred purpose and character. "My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Some unhallowed deeds wrought in Yealmpton Church we have now to record.

On December 8th, 1334, Bp. Grandisson issued his mandate for the induction of Sir John de Flisco, Canon of Salisbury, into the corporal possession of the prebends of King's Teignton and Yealmpton, for which he had received Papal "provision." He was not inducted in person, but sent his proctor, Master Adam de Lichefelde. Now, John de Flisco was a foreigner, and the son of a foreigner, Nicholas de Flisco, Cardinal de Janua: he possessed already another prebend, viz., that of Fridaythorpe in the Church of St. Peter, York, and, so far as the evidence goes, had not even taken the trouble to come to England to receive the emoluments of these prebends, much more to perform the duties that went with them. The country was greatly incensed against all foreigners, because England was at war with France, the most powerful of continental nations and the ally or gaoler of the Pope, who had quitted Rome and had built for himself a palace at Avignon. Thus money was drained from England to support England's enemies. Bp. Grandisson himself had promised at his consecration to raise in England 5,000 florins for the Papal treasury. For these reasons it was a most injudicious thing to seek to enrich foreign clerics with English preferments. The people of Yealmpton and of King's Teignton alike shewed their resentment in an unmistakable manner. Clerks and laity in great numbers formed themselves into armed bands, smashed the doors and windows of the churches and the buildings belonging to them, and held them against the admission of the proctor of Sir John de Flisco. They refused to

pay tithes, and put them to other uses. Tidings of this rebellion reached the Bishop when he was at Clyst. He issued his Mandate against these "intruders" to his "beloved sons, all and singular, abbots, priors, archdeacons, deans, rectors, and perpetual vicars of churches." Impiety had been kindled like a fire. Such conduct was savagery. They had violated Church order and liberty. "The Prebendary, admitted by us to the said churches, suffers loss, the peace of our most noble Prince and King and of his kingdom is disturbed, the salvation of souls is imperilled in no mean degree, and injury is done to the Universal Church and the Pontiff's prerogative." The names of the offenders were unknown to the Bishop, but the aforesaid officials were to publish against them, on days ferial and non-ferial, the sentence of the Greater Excommunication. It was to be proclaimed in the most public manner possible, with the beating of bells and the lighting and extinguishing of candles, in all monasteries, churches and chapels, by a loud-voiced crier and by placard, so that the persons indicted might not plead that they knew nothing about it. Nor was this all. The vicars of Yealmspton and King's Teignton were commanded to arrest, within the bounds of their respective parishes, all who were concerned in this outrage of the Church and the destruction or consumption of the tithes, and cite them to appear before the Bishop within a certain time which the vicars were to fix. The Christian and surnames of the "intruders" were to be transmitted to the Bishop. Furthermore, each of the above officials, on receiving the Mandate, was to make a copy of it at once, and return the original to the messenger, that he might take it on to the next place. Dated September 15th, 1335.*

* The whole diocese seems to have been in a ferment about this time, for worse tumults broke out at Tavistock and Plympton, respectively the largest and the wealthiest religious houses in the diocese.

The Bishop was not aware that the real "intruders" were these undesirable aliens. In 1339 a brief was issued by the King to Bishop Grandisson, commanding him to certify "what dignities, prebends, and other ecclesiastical benefices in the Diocese of Exeter were held by foreigners." The return deals first of all with the secular clergy, and the third on the list is "John de Flyseo, the Lombard, son of Sir Nicholin de Janna (Genoa), student of Oxford, Canon of the Church of Salisbury and Prebendary of the Church of Teignton Regis . . . and of Yealmspton."

The following references to John de Flyseo are taken from the Patent Rolls:—

"1336. October 4th.—Ratification of the estate of John, son of Nicholinus de Flyseo of Genoa, as prebendary of Fridaythorpe in the Church of St. Peter, York, and of Teynton and Yalmspton in the Church of Salisbury of the Apostolic See."—(Membrane 22.)

"October 8th.—Protection with clause *nolumus* for one year for the said John, son of Nicholinus de Flyseo." (*Ibid.* m.)

"1337. July 24th. John, son of Nicholinus de Flyseo, of Genoa, prebendary, etc., (*ut supra*) staying beyond the seas has letters nominating Anthony Bache of Genoa, and Master Adam de Liehefelde, clerk, his attorneys in England for two years. Master William de Norwico, Archdeacon of Norwich, received the attorneys by writ."

"1346. April 12th. Grant to John de Flyseo, son of Master Nicholinus de Flyseo, prebendary of Teynton and Yalmspton in the Diocese of Exeter, that he may freely receive and order to the best advantage the fruits and profits of the prebend nor be compelled to make any contribution to the King with the other aliens."—(Membrane 27.) Cf. Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. v., p. 490, quoting a reply of the King to the Pope, pointing out the drain upon the finances of the country through constant warfare, and explaining that after deducting the necessary obligations and burdens, all the fruits and provisions of benefices held by aliens had been taken by himself (the King) for the expenses of the war.

[William de Flyseo, his brother, was licensed the same day to receive the revenues of the Prebend of Stransale.—Rymer's *Fœdera*, v., 507.]

Twelve years later a disturbance of greater violence and magnitude broke out. A commission, under the presidency of that "discreet man, Master William de Townstalle, priest and commissioner, for the time being, of our beloved son, the Archdeacon of Totnes," was appointed to sit in Yealmpton Church, "dedicated in honour of God and the blessed Apostle Bartholomew"* for the administration of justice. Sitting by the side of the high altar, Master William was about to open the court to inquire into the discipline of manners and into the sins and excesses of the subjects of the Archdeacon, when about two hundred men, with drawn swords, arrows on bow and in quiver, and other weapons of all kinds, rushed upon the commissioner and his clerks and drove them out of the church. The advocates, proctors and other persons, legal, clerical and ecclesiastical, who had assembled in great numbers, either as plaintiffs or defendants, were so terrified that they also fled, taking refuge in the house of "our beloved daughter, the noble Lady, Mistress Margaret de Mont-hermer," who lived close to the church, thus escaping being either killed or maimed. The rolls, registers and other documents were torn out of the hands of the commissary and his clerks and carried away. The Bishop could not overlook such grave disorder. "The tranquillity and immunity of the peace of Church and State had been enormously injured, ecclesiastical jurisdiction outraged, and the inquisition of the Bishop obstructed and stopped." Therefore he issued his mandate to his beloved sons, Brother John de Courtney, Abbot of the Monastery of Tavistock, and Robert de Forde, Prior of Plympton Priory, Sir Walter Pollard, Rector of North Bovey, John Mynylonde, Rector of Peter Tavy, and Thomas Vicar of Sutton (Plymouth). They were to institute proceedings against those who were elegantly described in the mandate as "pupils of damnation—satellites of Satan—miserable wretches" and so forth. The above-named commissaries, having associated with themselves the rectors and vicars of the neighbouring parishes, were to meet in the church of Sutton on Palm Sunday (April 13th), and then and there to excommunicate with the Greater Excommunication, from the bounds of Holy Mother Church, the aforesaid sacrilegious persons, their aiders and abettors, and, arrayed in stoles and surplices, deliver them to the devil and his angels. Bells were to be rung; candles were to be lit and extinguished; the cross was to be elevated. In the presence of the great congregation, at the extinction of the candles, the sentence of excommunication was to be publicly and solemnly pronounced in these or similar words: "As the light of this candle is extinguished, so may their good works be extinguished before God, unless they repent. So be it, so be it. Amen." The granting of Absolution the bishop expressly reserved to himself. His commissaries were to use the utmost diligence in finding out the names of the actual offenders

* This is the earliest mention we have of the dedication of the church

and of their accomplices, and cite them, or cause them to be cited, to appear before him (the Bishop) or his official deputy on the fifth juridical day after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross (May 3rd). The chaplains of Sutton and others were inhibited from admitting them to the sacraments or sacramentals, except by special permission. This mandate was to be explained in the vulgar tongue and published in the churches near the town of Sutton on Sundays and other festivals. Dated at Chudleigh, March 21st, 1347-8.

Bishop Grandisson was personally acquainted with Yealmpton and its church, for he visited it on October 7th, 1333, not much more than a year *before* the first disturbance. Had he come a year *after*, his visit would have been less pleasant to all concerned.

"Happy is the country that hath no history," and we suppose the same thing may be said of a church. At any rate, it is some satisfaction to note that no further untoward incident is *recorded* to have taken place in the church for the next five hundred years. Although parishioners have no claim upon any particular place in the church, except by faculty or prescription, it is very common to find people touchy as regards "their" seats. It seems that a re-distribution of seats in an ecclesiastical—not parliamentary—sense was effected in the belfry gallery just prior to the rebuilding of the church, by which John Gilbert and Robert Charlick were disturbed. Soon after service began one Sunday morning, they entered the church and demanded, in a loud tone, that their books should be handed down to them from the gallery; they should not be turned out: they would turn themselves out. Gilbert seems to have been the worse offender, and he was reported to the Bishop, who ordered him, by way of a penance, to stand at the church door and distribute at his own charges ten shillings' worth of bread. Moreover, this worthy pair published an acknowledgment of "the indecency of such conduct." The offence took place on January 16th, 1848, and the apology was published on January 25th.*

A more heinous offence than this was that committed by Askey, a mason, of Holbeton. The last person to be buried within the church was a Miss Stapleton, niece of the Bulteels, of Lyneham, who, dying there, was buried in the Lyneham Aisle in 1849. Askey was ordered to open the family vault

* Copy of Apology. Print in possession of J. Yonge, Esq., Puslinch.

"CAUTION.

"We, the undersigned, having been guilty of great irreverence in the church of Yealmpton, on Sunday, the 16th inst., by entering it, after the Divine Service had begun, and creating a disturbance therein, by remonstrating (*i.e.*, one or more of us) in a loud voice against the change which had been made in the Gallery, do hereby acknowledge the indecency of such conduct, and our forgetfulness of the sanctity of the place in which we were. We are now convinced, that if we had any grievance to complain of, we should have sought redress at some other time, and in some other way. We consent to pay the expense of this public acknowledgment.

"J. GILBERT.

"ROBT. CHARLICK.

"Signed before me, JOHN B. YONGE.

"Dated, Jan. 25th, 1848."

and prepare it for its last occupant. While thus employed, he saw a silver breast-plate on a coffin of one of the Bulteels. The temptation of Achan beset him. Knowing that this would be the last burial in the church, and that when the vault was closed it would never be re-opened, he supposed that anything taken from it would never be missed. He coveted the piece of silver and stole it. Defacing, as he imagined, all marks of identification, he sold it. But the defacement was only partially carried out. The very attempt excited suspicion, started inquiry, and exposed the thief. The church cell was exchanged for a prison cell, where Askey passed three months of his life. We hope he emerged from it a wiser and a better man.

In two cases the punishment is recorded, but not the offence. On a loose leaf in the Registers are these two entries:—

(i.) "Memorandum: Mary Vicary of the Parish of Yealmpton was declared excommunicate Sept. 3rd 1727. Memorandum: Mary, ye wife of Richard Chissul, her former name Vicary, was restored to ye communion of ye Church Feb. 7th, 1730."

(ii.) "Memorandum: William Smith of ye Parish of Yealmpton was declared excommunicate November 29th, 1739."

There is no record of his restoration.

Germane to the incidents of this chapter is a dispute which arose between the sexton and *her* deputy. It was no unusual thing for a woman to be sexton. It was a privilege given to some poor, respectable woman, who farmed out the hard manual labour of the office, such as digging the graves and tolling the bell, to some man at a price lower than that which she herself received for such work. Thus we find, in 1778, Catherine Axworthy filling the post of sexton, her deputy being John Marshall. But a nice little squabble arose out of this practice, particulars of which are preserved in the chest at the Court House. For,

"Mary (?) Rowe saith that an old woman named Axworthy was used to do the office of sexton, and used to employ one John Marshall to dig the graves and toll the bells, and that when sd (said) Axworthy died, the curate, Mr. Luscombe, as she understood, by the order of the parishioners, gave her the same appointment, and she received the sexton's salary of £1 os. od. a year; that Wm. Smale's wife came to her and desired her husband might make the graves as Marshall had done and she agreed he should; that she made a condition that he should pay her a certain proportion of the fee for digging as Marshall had done; that he did this work for two years, but did not pay her the acknowledgment as she had required; that they had therefore often disputes on that account, and at last she discharged him, and employed Thomas Carne for a little time. Thomas Carne paid her as she thinks 3d. for every

grave, and afterwards her own husband did the work for her, and continues to do so.

"Sworn before us this 2nd of July, 1819.

"Duke Yonge.

"Richard Lane.

"her

"Margaret × Rowe

"mark."

This is one side.

Audi alteram partem.

"According to the examination of William Smale, taken on oath July 1st, 1819, he married the daughter of the sexton, and he upon the death of the sexton digged the graves and tolled the bell, and was paid 3/- a year for looking after the churchyard for 2 years and 2 months and 15 days, by the parishioners at Easter, 1815."

The very dread of probable disputes over the grave must surely have reduced the death rate of the parish.

The stocks are still preserved in the church. The usual position for them was outside the east gate of the churchyard. No one of the present generation confesses to have had shares in these stocks, and cannot, or kindly will not, mention any person who had. 'Tis well so.



CHAPTER IV.

A LIST OF THE VICARS OF YEALMPTON.

| DATE OF INSTITUTION. | NAME OF VICAR. |
|---|--|
| 1297 (occurs as Vicar at this date) | Thomas de Evesham |
| 1 March, 1309 (1310) (occurs as Vicar at this date) | Sir Ralph |
| (Not recorded, 1326?) | Sir Siger de London |
| 1 May, 1334 | Sir William de Luccomb ¹ |
| 31 October, 1342 | Sir Stephen de Redyng ² |
| — February, 1361 (1362) | Sir John Wederhale ³ |
| 1 April, 1362 | Sir William Yurl ⁴ |
| (Not recorded: prob- ably 1384) | John Play |
| 7 August, 1415 | Hugh Maunsell |
| 11 April, 1440 | John Burgh |
| 8 March, 1460 (1461) | Macolus Cosyn |
| (Not recorded) | John Wyght |
| 25 October, 1460 | Thomas Lake |
| 22 November, 1474 | John Hayne |
| (Not recorded) | William Crug |
| 23 October, 1517 | John Keton |
| 23 June, 1537 | Ludovicus Johans, LL.B. |
| 16 July, 1570 | Richard Lyllngstone ⁵ |
| 8 October, 1586 | Martin Kaye, B. SAC. THEO. ⁶ |
| 29 March, 1629 | John Shepheard, M.A. |
| 6 November, 1661 | Daniel Moore ⁷ |
| 29 April, 1681 | William Adams, B.A. ⁸ |
| 14 June, 1720 | Ezekiel Wills, M.A. ⁹ |
| 8 October, 1737 | Thomas Wingfield, M.A. ¹⁰ |
| 30 May, 1758 | Thomas Pyle, M.A. ¹¹ |
| 31 December, 1807 | Bridges Harvey, B.A. |
| 1 July, 1808 | Bridges Harvey |
| 14 February, 1810 | James Longmore |
| 18 February, 1856 | Richard Vautier, B.A. ¹² |
| 22 May, 1857 | William Thomas Huxham Eales, B.A. ¹³ |
| 9 May, 1888 | George Girdlestone Woodhouse, B.A. ¹⁴ |
| 21 September, 1897 | Henry James Warner, M.A. ¹⁵ |

NOTES.

¹ Formerly R. of Little Torrington, having exchanged with Sir Siger de London: instituted at Clyst. Patron:—Master Robert de Blountesdone, Canon of Salisbury.

² Instituted at Ottery St. Mary. Patron:—Sir John de Flisco, by his proctor, Master Adam de Lichefelde.

³ Instituted at Chudleigh. Patron:—Sir William de Dyghtetone, Canon of Salisbury.

⁴ Ditto.

⁵ Instituted by Archbishop Parker, the See of Exeter being vacant. Patron:—Henry Lyllingstone, of Southampton, merchant, as assignee of George Vincent, alderman, of Southampton, Thomas Turner, and John Griffyn, in virtue of a grant to them made by Leonard Bilson, Prebendary of Kingsteignton, in Salisbury Cathedral.

⁶ Also Vicar of Staverton.

⁷ Son of Thomas, of Loddiswell, commoner of Balliol Coll., Oxon., matriculated 15 June, 1632, aged 20; B.A., 24 October, 1633.

⁸ Son of William Adams, of Totnes, commoner of Balliol Coll., Oxon.; matriculated 13 March, 1667-8, aged 17; B.A., 1671.

⁹ Commoner of Trinity Coll., Oxon.; B.A., 19 February, 1705; M.A., 11 July, 1709.

¹⁰ Commoner of S. John's Coll., Oxon.; B.A., 26 April, 1732.

¹¹ Died 3 July, 1807, aged 94, at Winchester.

¹² Of Peterhouse, Camb.; B.A., 1845.

¹³ Of Trinity Coll., Camb.; B.A., 1834.

¹⁴ Of Christ Church, Oxon.


¹⁵ Of St. John's Coll., Camb.; B.A., 1884; M.A., 1888.



CHAPTER V.

BRIEFS.

(Recorded in the Register of Burials.)

- (1.) OLLECTED in the parish-Church of Yalmpton 21 Aprill 61 in the County of Devon, the sum of Tenne Shillings and seaven pence half penny towards a Brief concerning Falkenham in the county of Norfolke burnt, wch. monies was paid unto John Galpine, authorized by John Quarles and Robert Feltham Cons. (constables) constituted and appointed by his maj(es)ty for the end and purpose aforesaid: so witnesseth John Galpine's hand signed in the presence of Arthur Copplestone Esquire and Jho. Colepresse minr. *ibidem* * May 21. 1661.
- (2.) Collected in the parish Church of Yalmpton the 19th of May, 1661, in the County of Devon, towards the relief of the distressed inhabitants of the maritime towne of Southwoud al(ia)s Soutbay in the County of Suffolk, the sum of fifteen shillings and sixpence wch. monies was paid in to James Pearse of Plympton-Mary, head Con(sta)ble, by Daniel Slade of Yalmpton, Warden: the 25th of May, 1661.
- (3.) Collected in the parish Church of Yalmpton in the County of Devon towards the brief of the Burrough and parish of Pontefract in the county of Yorke, and towards the repairing of their Parish-Church the sum of seaven shillings and seaven pence halfe-penny, wch. monies was paid to John Galpine authorized by authority as under his hand it doth appeare.
- (4.) Given to John Garret's wife and Mary Savill and severall other distressed children, authorised by his maj(es)ty's commissioners the viith of Aug: 1661 2s. 6d.
- (5.) Collected the 1 day of 7ber 61 Towards the relief of the distressed petitioners of Fremington in the County of Devon (viz. Phillip Baker, Abell Berrill, John Berrill, Thomas Baker, John Dawkin, and John Ellis, whose houses and goods were burnt) ye sum of Tenne Shillings and threepence.
- (6.) Collected the 8th day of September, 1661, Twelve shillings and sixpence halfe-penny in the Parish Church of Yalmpton in the County of Devon towards the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Oxford which was burnt in 44. wh. appears by Letters patents.

* *i.e.*, Minister there.

- (7.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton in the County of Devon the 22 of 7ber, 61, five shillings fourpence halfpenny towards the relief of Henry Harrison his wife and children, by virtue of his maj(es)ty's Letters patents. Anthony Hill collected it of Plymouth as Deputy.
- (8.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton 15 feeb, 1660, towards Milton Abbot's brief twelve shillings and 6, such monies was pd in by Arthur Coplestone Esq ye warden to John Davy deputy Collector as appeareth by his receipt.
- (9.) Collected the 7th day of October, 1661, Towards the distrest Inhabitants of Ilminster, in Sommersetshire that was burnt, the sum of Tenne Shillings eleven pence halfpenny, pd in by Daniel Slade to the head Con(sta)ble James Pearse, gent.
- (10.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton in the County of Devon 13th October, 1661, towards the relief of David Long in the County of Wilts: whose house and goods were burnt, the sum of fower shillings threepence halfe penny farthinge, pd. into the head Con(sta)ble by Daniell Slade.
- (11.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton, the 10th of November towards the relief of the Protestant churches of Lithuania the sum of six shill(ing)s and 5d., wch. was paid in to the head-constable by the warden three days after acc(ording) to the Letters patents.
- (12.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton in the County of Devon ye 15th day of December towards the releife of the distressed inhabitants of the Towne of Great Drayton in Salop, the sum of fower shillings and 7d. by virtue of his maj(es)ty's Letters patents, Tho: Denham the Collector: his deputies Mr. Jackson of Modbury and Mr. Radcliffe Bookseller of Plymo(uth) who will give receipts.
- (13.) Collected in the Parish Church of Yalmpton the 6th of Aprill, 1662, the sum of seaven shillings and 8d. Towards the buildinge of storehouses and provideing of nets, Caskes, and Salt, in readynesse for setting forth ffishing vessels from ye Island of Sheteland, acc(ording) to the King's proclamation and letters Patents, dated ye 5th of Sept. in ye 13th year of our reigne.
- (14.) Collected the 7th of December towards a brief for John Davies of Hereford 9d, as Tho. Brooking ye warden said, whereof 6d. was given by Jho. Colepresse ye minister.
- (15.) Collected towards the reliefe of those that were visited with the plague of ^{pestilence} the first fasting day being ye second of August, 158, which was paid unto my Lord Bishop's secretary at Plymouth, Sept. the 4th, 1665.

- (16.) Collected the second fasting day, being Sept. the sixth, 4s. 6d and the third fasting day, being October the 4th, 7s., wch with the former being in all 11s. 6d. I delivered to Mr. Edmond Pollexfen at Kitley who promised me to cause his servant to deliver it to the deane ruler Dr. Ashton of Plymouth the next morning being October 9th.
- (17.) Collected the fourth fasting day 2s. 3d.
- (18.) Payd in the collected summe for the distressed in London by reason of the fire to Mr ffrancis Cooke, 2 November, 1666, 11b 6s.
- (19.) Paid to the deputed Collector for — Feb 8th, 3s 3d
- (20.) Delivered to — Gould of Broadhempston 9 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, which was collected in Yalmp-ton and Revelstoke Sept. and Octr., 1669 towards the reparation of his losses.
- (21.) Collected for the Lazar houses in London, Sept. 23rd, 1670, six shillings for Yalmp-ton, and one shilling for Revelstoke ——— a Tiverton man who had the seal and a deputation.
- (22.) Delivered to William Smith, Sept 26th, 1672, a briefe for ————— in Middlesex but nothing given at Yalmp-ton delivered to the same man another for the same place to which was given six pence at Revelstoke.
- (23.) The briefe for Will: Sandwell of Shadwell, in the Parish of Stepney and County of Middlesex, was published May the 8th, 1664, but nothing given.

In addition to the above, some special collections seem to have been made in the *parish*. Thus, amongst some documents removed from the Church to the Court House, a paper is preserved (?) giving particulars of a collection made "for the redemption of our English captives in Turkey A.D. 1670." The amount so collected was £3 2s. 8d. from 117 contributors, whose names are given. Ten years later, viz, August 21st, 1680, is the date upon "An Account of the money that hath been collected towards the redemption of the captives in Algiers and Sally and other places in the coasts of Affrica and of the names of all those that hath been contributors." Those whose names are recorded numbered 184, and the amount was £6 18s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The principal contributors were Mr. Robert Pollexfen his wife 10s., John Croker, Esq. 5s., Henry Woolcombe 2s. 6d., Walter Steart 5s., Mr. Thomas Rider 3s., Arthur Copplestone, senr., Esq, 2s. 6d., Mr. John Copplestone 5s., and his wife 2s., and his mother 2s. 6d., Mistress Mary Copplestone 2s. "Daniel Moore, vicar, besides his cost in disposing the briefs and his labour and travail amongst the people and writing the duplicates, 1s."

CHAPTER VI.

INVENTORIES OF CHURCH GOODS.

- (1.) **I**NVENTORY of Church goods made in the 6th year of Edward VI.—Parochia de Yalhamp-ton:—

iii Bells in the Tower there and one Chalice committed to the custody of John Crocker esquire, John Pollexfen, John Browning and other the parishioners there by indenture (Q. R. $\frac{2}{7}$ fol. 45).

- (2.) Inventory preserved at the office of the Diocesan Registrar, Exeter (undated):—

Imprimis, the Bible and Book of Common Prayer of the last Edition and largest volume, two old bookes of Common Prayer, the works of Jewell and Harding, the booke of Homilies together with the booke of constitutions and canons, a register book of Christnings and weddings and burialls in parchment. A booke for straung (strange) preachers, two bookes of account, the one for the church, the other for the poor, a register book for rogues and vagabonds, a rate for the Church in parchment confirmed under the hand and seal of the Bishop or his chancellor. A cuppe of silver and a cover for the same, a tinning pot to contain the wine, the surplices for minister and clarkes, a covering for the communion table, a cushion of velvett for the pulpitt. Armour belonging to the church, five back and five brest pieces, five gorgetts, three payre of laces, three payre of poudrens, six head pieces, four swords, and one rapier, two daggers, two payre of bandalerons and one box for touch powder, two muskets, three pickes, four girdells and hangers, two barrels for making gunpowder.

James Bathe, *Curate*.

Ferdinand Blake, } *Churchwardens*.
Eleazar Brooking, }

(Date probably 1624-25: Ferdinand Blake being Churchwarden that year.)

- (3.) An Inventory of the goods ornaments Books and Implements belonging to the Church and parish of Yealmeton, which was delivered over unto Henry Rosedue, and John foorde of Yeo the three and twentieth daye of Aprill 1621 by Nicholas Pollexfen, gent., and Nicholas Cour(tis) Churchwardens for the laste year past, 1620, according to the effecte as there(in written) as followeth:—

Imp. the Bible and Booke of Comon prayer of the laste edition and large volume. Two olde Bookes of Comon prayer, Jewell and Hardinge workes in the largest volume, the booke of homilies with the booke of Constitutions and Cannons, a Statute booke, a Register booke for weddings Christenings and burials in pchmt (parchment) a note booke in pchmt for straunge (strange) preachers. Two bookes of accompts, one for the Church, and the other for the Poore. A Register booke for Roauges and Vagabonds, our Rate for the Church in pchmt, Confirmed under the hand and Seale of the Lorde Bishop of Exon.

Parte of Indentures for Apprentices; a Bounde wherein John Standon and William Standon are bounde for the discharge of our parish for Johane Coles, base child, divers other loose papers and old accompts, with prayer books for the preservation of our Kinge's Majestie, Com-manded to be read the fiveth daye of November. A cup of silver and a cover for the same, The Tynning pott, the surpluces for the Minister and Clarke. Item the Comunyon Table Cloth with an olde covering for the table, a Velvett Cushion for the pulpitt, Pipes of Tynne for organs; 3 planks, 2 of them in the loede (? low) barne and thother one in Mr. Nicholas Pollexfen's keeping one for a table boorde in the Custodie of the Clarke. Item of Armor for the p(ar)ish five Backes 5 breaste peice 5 gorgetts, 3 paires of Laces, 3 paires of Poldrons, 6 head peice, 4 swords and a Rapier, 2 daggers, 2 payre of bandeleares, a flaske and touch boxe, 2 musketts, 3 pikes, 4 gardels and hangers, gunpowder match bulletts and 2 barrels to put gun powder in.

- (4.) [An Inventory] of the goods ornaments Books and Im-pelments belonging to the Church and [parish of Yealm]pton, which were delivered over unto William Stevens and John Brookine by Henry Rosedue, Church-warden for the last year paste, 1621.

[Imprimis the Bible and Book] of Comon prayer of the last edition and large volume, one old book of [Comon Prayer, Jewel and Ha]rdinge workes in the largest volume, the book of homilies with the [booke of constitutions] and Cannons, a statute booke a register booke for weddings Christnings [and burials], a booke in pement (parchment) for straunge (strange) preachers, two books of accounts [the one for the Church the other fo]r the poore, a register booke for Rouges and vagabonds, our [rate for the Church in] pement, confirmed under the hand and seale of the Lord Bishop of [Exon and his Chancellor Henry M]annyng.

- (5.) An Inventory of all the goods ornaments and Imple-ments belonging to the Church and Paryshe of Yealmton wh were delivered unto Henry Rosedue and Henry

Treby, the first daye of Maye Ano Dm: 1617, by John Croker, Esq, and Thomas Stevens, Churchwardens for the laste yeare paste, 1616, according to the effect as therein written Indented as followeth :—

Inprms. One booke the Byble and booke of Comon Prayer of the laste design, and the olde byble, and twoe old bookes of Comon prayer, Jewell and Hardinge workes of the largest volume, the booke of homilies with the booke of Constitutions and Cannons, A Register booke for Weddings Chrystenings and buryall in parchment, Annother for Roauges, with two paper bookes for Accompts, one for the poore and annother for the Church, & our Rate for the Church in parchment. Confirmed under the Lord Bishops hand and seale with divers other loose papers and writtings with ffyve partes of Indentures for Apprentices, A Bond by John Standon and William Standon for the discharge of our parishe for Jane Coles Base Child. Divers Accompts, A Prayer booke for the Kings maiesties preservation Required to be read the vth of November with o[rder] for the same, with the surplisses for the Minister and Clearke.

A Comunion Table Cloth with a Couvering for the same & the pulpet, A Comunion Cupp of silver with a Cover, A glasse bottel covered with Leather, pypes of the organes and parte of the frame, the Rest being used about the Seat of the Minister and Clearke, 3 planks and a frame for one to stand uppon these planks with Mr. John Pollexfen, and one with Mr. Nicholas Pollexfen.

And of the Armor for the parishe ffyve Back and ffyve brest pieces and . . . gorgets, two payres of laces, six head pieces, 3 swords, 2 daggers, 3 guirdells and hangers, 2 Paires of bandeleers, a fflaske and Touch box, 2 musketts and 3 pikes (?) with . . . of powder.



CHAPTER VII.

TERRIERS.

- (1.) INTO my Lord Bp's Register office



Deliver this I pray you.

Yalmeton in Plympton Deanery.

A perfect terrier of the Vicaridge of Yalmp-ton in the County of Devon in the state that it is now in, and hath been ever since and long before the time of my residence here.

The house is great, it being built when great store of land did belong to it, but now being situated and separated from those lands, it becomes too great a burthen for the Vicaridge to beare, and the keeping up of the house will probably be the fall of the present and future Vicars. I speake and write as I seriously think and I experimentally find, and as any person may easily conjecture by this present Terrier.

THE HOUSE.*

The house consists of a parlour, a hall, a kitchen, a cellar, a stable, and four other ground rooms or floors, and of five chambers and a study, but there is no wainscot in all the house, neither ever was there that I know or ever have heard of. The walls are all of stone.

THE GLEBE.

The glebe land is about three quarters of an acre, containing a little quillet of ground of about half an acre, a little orchard of about a quarter of an acre that hath in it about half a score of trees and an herb garden of about three or four perches.

THE BOUNDSES.

This little glebe is bounded on the East and West with the lands which belong to a Prebendary of Sarum and which are a part of the Manor commonly called the Parsonage Manor, on the North with the land of Arthur Coplestone, Esq., on the North East corner with a field called Yalmbury, being the land of Edmund Pollexfen, Esq., and on the south side with the street or highway betwixt Plymouth and Modbury. And for the testimony of the truth hereof I Daniel Moore, vicar, have subscribed my hand.

Signed DANIEL MOORE, *Vicar.*

THOMAS ROGERS *Churchwarden*, his — signe.

(No date. Between 1661 and 1681.)

- (3.) Imprimis for a terrier of our glebe we have now but only one Vicarage and a little plot of land, about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

* This was the old Rectory-house, left for the Vicar when all the land, except a garden and a paddock, was separated from it, being appropriated to the Prebendary.

of land. There was given to the poor of our parish by the last will and testament of Johane Norsworthie six pounds, which is yearly lent unto the poor at Easter to keep them in work. There was likewise given by the last will of Sir Warwick Hele, Kt., £20 interest and profit thereof, as yearly distributed amongst the poor of our parish.*

For a store of money belonging to our Church, we have not any other goods, but only the bells, books, and ornaments required and used in our Church for the celebration of Divine service and administration of the Sacraments. We have not any rate confirmed for the reparation of our Church.

(No date.)

1745.

- (4.) A good substantial house built of stone and covered with slate containing a Hall, a parlour, a kitchen with a pantry pastry and cellar, four chambers and a third on the front of the house, a court and small garden plott and behind the house a stable and yard. A garden on the side of the hill at the North end of the house rising towards the North, partly walled with stone and partly encompassed by a hedge. The whole bounded on the south by the Highway passing between the house and the churchyard and on the north by a small grove of trees belonging to Thomas Coplestone, Esq., and part of a field called Yalmebury, which field is the common sporting place of the country people, on the West by some cottages next to the highway, and above them as you rise up the Hill by the kitchen garden of the said Thomas Coplestone, Esq., and on the East by a field comonly called at this time Port's Park. The whole of the ground on which the House and Stable stand, together with the yards and gardens, containing by estimation about one acre of ground or perhaps somewhat more. There are no other lands belonging to the Vicarage that I know of (not so much as to keep a horse) it being stript very bare, and all the lands, tenements, etc., formerly belonging to the Church, united in what is comonly called the Rectory Manor, which, with the great Tythes, belong to a Prebendary in the Church of Sarum. Given under my hand this 4th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1745.

[THOMAS] WINGFIELD, M.A., *Vicar*.


JOHN HOLBERTON } *Churchwardens.*
ARTHUR ROSDEW }

Walter Stert, Thomas Holberton, Thomas Edwards, Philip Hall, Henry Rosdew, Joseph Bastard, William Algar.

* All trace of these Charities has been lost. In the 5th Report of the Charity Commissioners presented in 1821 under the head of Yealmpton, nothing was then known of the Warwick Hele Charity. A statement, however, in the same Report *re* Wembury is to the effect that Sir Warwick Hele gave to the churchwardens of several specified parishes, *i.e.*, Wembury and Yealmpton, £20 each for purposes therein mentioned, but adds that "it does not appear that that parish (Wembury) is at present in the enjoyment of any annual income in respect of this gift."

CHAPTER VIII.

ORATORIES.

 HERE were at least two of these in the parish. In 1330-1 Sir Thomas de Mont Hermer was granted a license by the bishop to have Divine service in the chapels and oratories upon his own manors in the Diocese of Exeter, and we have already seen that he was seized of the Manor of Yealmpton. At the same time "he and his wife, Dame Margaret, obtained a license for choosing for themselves discreet and gifted priests for confessors, to whom they might confess their sins, and in order that the same priests might absolve them and enjoin salutary penance upon them for their misdeeds."* We do not know where this oratory was situated, but that it was near the Church is clear from the description of the disturbance in the Church mentioned on p. 13, in which it is stated that the fugitives found protection in the house of Dame Margaret, which was close to the Church.

In 1374 another oratory was licensed at Lyneham for Robert Topclyve "that he might have the Sacraments and Sacramentals celebrated in the presence of himself and his wife in the chapel of Lynham, in the parish of Yealmpton."† These licenses had to be renewed every year.

Of a different character from these private oratories was the chapel of St. John the Baptist at Noss—not to be confused with the chapel of St. Peter at Stoke—to which a special license was granted on 16 May, 1400, so that the inhabitants of the village "de Nasse" might have Divine service on St. John the Baptist's day and on ferial days, at their own charges, and saving the rights of the mother church (*i.e.* Yealmpton), to which they were to resort on Sundays and other festivals.‡ This chapel probably stood at the head of the creek, on the site now occupied by the Voluntary School.

* *A.D. 1330-1. Licencia pro Oratoriis Domini Thome de Monte Hermeri. Item xmo., Kalendas Aprilis (23 March) ibidem [at Clist]. Dominus Thome de Monte Hermeri, Miles, obtinuit Licenciam faciendi celebrari Divina in Capellis sive Oratoriis suis infra Maneria sua in Diocesi Exoniensi constituta constructis; pro se et consorte sua ac aliis familiaribus et hospitibus suis, per annum a data presentium. Item eisdem die et loco, idem Dominus Thome et Domina Margareta, ejus uxor, obtinuerunt Licenciam eligendi sua discretos et idoneos Presbiteros in Confessores quibus peccata sua valeant confiteri; et ut idem Presbiteri eosdem absolvant, et eisdem pro suis commissis Penitentiam injungant salutarem, exceptis casibus Domino de jure reservatis. (Bp. Grandisson's Register, p. 603.)*

† Item, eisdem die, loco, et anno (*i.e.*, 21 Nov., 1371, at Clist) Dominus concessit Licenciam Roberto Topclyve, de Lynham, quod possit habere Sacramenta et Sacramentalia, sepultura dumtaxat excepta, in presencia sua et uxoris sue, in Capella de Lynham, in Parochia de Yalmyptone; per unum annum duraturam. (Bp. Brantingham's Register.)

‡ Bishop Stafford's Register.

CHAPTER IX.

THE CHURCHYARD.

IN many parishes God's Acre preceded God's House. Behind the "tradition," narrated by Risdon, of the burial of Lipsius, may lie the fact that the churchyard is of greater antiquity than the church itself. For although the Saxons were well content to worship God in the open air, they would be compelled to find a place for the burial of their dead, and on that spot it would be natural for them to "assemble and meet together" for worship. The "Goreus" stone, still earlier in date, may point to the existence of a burial-ground contemporary with British Christianity. However, not till the fifteenth century do we find any distinct mention of the churchyard. About that time there was a general demand for greater convenience for the burial of the dead. Chapels-of-ease had no burial-grounds, but the inhabitants were compelled to carry their dead several miles to the mother church in all weathers and over most difficult country. At length the people of Revelstoke petitioned the Bishop of Exeter and the Vicar of Yealmpton for permission to have a piece of ground conveniently situated for burial purposes. Their reasons for this request are set forth in a "Composition touching the Chapel of St. Peter of Revelstoke and the Vicarage of Saint Bartholomew of Yealmpton." The document is undated, but it was granted by Edmund Lacy, who was Bishop of Exeter from July 3, 1420, to September 18th, 1455. The original is in Latin, but it is of so interesting a character, and some of the reasons alleged are so quaint, that a translation *in extenso* is given below, and is now printed for the first time.

COMPOSITION

recorded on Folios 22b to 23b of the volume which contains the Register of Institutions of Edmund Lacy, twenty-first Bishop of Exeter, from 3 July, 1420, to 18 September, 1455, being Volume X., Old Series [Lacy ii(i)], of the Registers of the Bishops preserved in the Registry of the Diocese.

Composition touching the Chapel of St. Peter, of Revelstoke, and the Vicarage of St. Bartholomew, of Yealmpton.

To all and several the sons of holy mother church to whom these present letters may come. Edmund, by Divine mercy Bishop of Exeter, greeting, grace, and blessing; being ready, for the perpetual remembrance of the matter, and to the honour of the Most High and un-

divided Trinity in that which we deem likely to be more acceptable to God and more helpful to the salvation of souls, more conducive to the peace of our subjects, to aim at attaining the one and the other with all good-will. Whereas there has lately been presented unto us the Petition of our beloved sons, Thomas Horestone, John Medeville, and Thomas Pey, and also of the rest of the Parishioners, all and singular, dwelling in the homesteads and hamlets pertaining to the Chapel, having cure of souls, of Saint Peter of Revelstoke, dependent, as is well known, on the Parochial and Mother Church of Saint Bartholomew of Yealmpton, in which is set forth,—That the said Chapel, together with a suitable, comely, and sufficient enclosure for a cemetery, for the burial of the bodies of the dead therein, when it shall have been consecrated, is situated close to the shore of the deep sea, possessing all the distinctive features of a parish, the right of burial excepted; a parish, moreover, distinct and defined, as well as having its own boundaries, in which Chapel, indeed, the parishioners of the aforesaid chapel, have always, from time immemorial, been accustomed to hear the Divine offices, and to enjoy and receive all sacraments and sacramentals whatsoever, to be celebrated and administered therein by a duly qualified chaplain, at the cost and expense of the perpetual Vicar of Yealmpton aforesaid, for the time being; the burial of the dead, as already mentioned, alone excepted, for which hitherto they have had recourse to the Parochial and Mother Church of Yealmpton aforesaid, and the cemetery thereof, and also at the present time. It set forth, moreover, that all the inhabitants of the several homesteads and hamlets of the aforesaid Chapel, dwelling in the same, throughout the greater part of the whole parish and chapel aforesaid, are distant from the said Parochial and Mother Church of Yealmpton aforesaid by three English miles and more; between which places, of a truth, there are sundry dangerous places in the roads, and two tidal arms of the sea, as well as a wide and perilous river, commonly called the Yealm; inso-much that sometimes in winter, for days together, no one is able to cross it, except in peril of his life, and so it happens that, on such occasions for days and weeks together, the bodies of the dead often remain unburied, to the great inconvenience and grievance of the said dwellers and inhabitants; also, because the whole parish of the aforesaid Chapel extends for a great distance along the shore of the sea; and while the dwellers or inhabitants of the parish of the said Chapel happen to be engaged in different reliefs in thus burying their dead at the said Parochial Church of Yealmpton, the enemies of the King and realm would be able to row or sail in, and so, in the meanwhile, burn and spoil the whole district (which God forbid!). And the above-mentioned parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel furthermore depose that they are for the more part fishermen and labourers, obtaining their food and clothing for themselves and their families, in different ways, by the skill and toil of their hands; and that they are very often distressed by reason of great expenses and hardships, and are called away from their business and work while engaged in conducting their funerals over such long and difficult roads. And sometimes they are altogether hindered, by the same causes, from performing that office of humanity, which is due in burying the dead, to the [great peril of their own souls and the cutting short] of the suffrages which are wont to be offered for [all] Christ's faithful departed, as well as to the harm of the public weal, and no little injury to very many. Wherefore they have humbly besought us that, having been fully satisfied as to their good faith concerning the matters aforesaid, as is requisite in such cases, we would deign to dedicate and consecrate the aforesaid Chapel to the honour of God and the Blessed Peter His Apostle, together with the aforesaid enclosure for the cemetery of the said Chapel duly assigned and for ever, and also to concede free right of burial in the same to the dwellers and inhabitants themselves. We, therefore, taking into consideration that their supplication is just, and that both piety and to some extent evident necessity demand that we

assent to their prayers ; seeing that, having first of all secured and obtained the consent as well as the assent concerning this matter of the Reverend Father and Lord in Christ, Robert, by the grace of God, Bishop of Salisbury, our brother, true patron of the Mother Church of Yealmpton and Chapel of Revelstoke, and also of the Dean and Chapter of the aforesaid Church of Salisbury, and that they have been summoned to appear who by law have a right to be summoned in a case of this sort, viz. Master Thomas fferiby, Canon of Salisbury and Prebendary of Teygntone Regis and Yealmpton in the same, and Sir Hugh Maunselle, perpetual vicar of the said Church of Yealmpton, and John Crocker, Esquire, and Nicholas Coterelle, and also the rest of the parishioners, all and singular, of the said Mother Church of Yealmpton ; and Inquisition having first been made concerning the said articles as represented to us ; and after full investigation of the case in due form of law ; after earnest and solemn consultation, also, concerning these matters with our beloved sons in Christ, the Dean and Chapter of our Church of Exeter : and whereas, by means of the said Inquisition, as also by the representations of the aforesaid parties, all and singular, for themselves and their successors, judicially made in our presence, by their proctors duly appointed to act in this matter, we find that all and singular the premises set forth and presented both are and will be found to be true : therefore, on the advice of the same Dean and Chapter of our Church of Exeter, and with both the consent and assent of the said Reverend Father, the Bishop of Salisbury, and also of the said Venerable Men, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, and the said Master Thomas fferiby, Prebendary, by his lawful proctor duly appointed by his letters, Sir Hugh the present Vicar of Yealmpton, appearing in person, and the aforesaid John and Nicholas, and the rest of their fellow-parishioners of Yealmpton, all and singular, appearing by their lawful proctor, also duly appointed by their letters, who appeared before us judicially, on a fixed day and place ; and of these proctors, indeed, viz., of the aforesaid Master Thomas, Prebendary, and of the parishioners of the aforesaid Parochial Church of Yealmpton, and also of the parishioners of the afore-mentioned Chapel of Revelstoke aforesaid, the Procuratorial letters are set forth below ; we have decreed, as, by the tenor of these Presents, we now decree, and by this our definitive sentence we declare and pronounce, the afore-mentioned Chapel and the enclosure itself adjacent to the said Chapel, assigned, as premised, for a cemetery, in order to the attainment of the use and purpose of ecclesiastical burial, (which [sepulture] we do, by our Pontifical authority, confer on the same, as soon as they shall have been consecrated, and for every other legal effect which can follow from such consecration hereafter), ought to be consecrated and dedicated ; saving always, in all other respects, the parochial rights of the said Parochial Church of Yealmpton aforesaid, and also of the said Prebendary, Vicar and parishioners of the same, so far as they have been from ancient times practised and observed.

Item, with the consent of the parties aforesaid, we ordain, decree and finally settle that every parochial chaplain, serving for the time being in the aforesaid Chapel, shall on two days every year for ever, namely on the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, and on the day of the dedication of the Church of Yealmpton, go in person to the said Mother Church of Yealmpton. And on those two days, in the aforesaid Chapel, let the voice of the praises of God be suspended and cease, unless he has to bury a body in the same. And let him sing the Gospel in the said Church of Yealmpton. Moreover the said parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel, and the dwellers and inhabitants belonging to the same, all and singular, who shall be able to come conveniently, not having a lawful excuse for their absence, shall assemble and be present on the said two days, to hear the Divine offices in the Church of Yealmpton aforesaid, in token of perpetual subjection ; and the aforementioned parishioners of the said Chapel of Revelstoke shall, on the said day of dedication pay to the wardens of the said Parochial and Mother Church of Yealmpton, or

to their proctors, in the name of the parishioners thereof, each year, in token of subjection as above, 2 shillings and 8 pence a year for ever, for the use and advantage of the said Parochial Church of Yealmpton; and that part of the wall of the Cemetery of the said Parochial Church of Yealmpton, which always, from time immemorial, they were accustomed to maintain, they shall maintain for ever, and repair and rebuild anew, if need be; and on these conditions let the parishioners of the said Chapel be free and excused from all other burdens howsoever appertaining to the aforesaid Parochial Church of Yealmpton and the parishioners thereof, as far as they had been so excused from of old, before this time. The other burdens, however, all and singular, and all Ornaments whatsoever belonging and appertaining to the aforementioned Chapel of Saint Peter, in whatsoever things they may consist, and by whatsoever name they may be described, shall pertain and are bound also to pertain in future to the aforesaid persons, viz., to every such Prebendary and the Vicar for the time being of Yealmpton aforesaid, and, also to the parishioners of the said Chapel of Saint Peter, being dwellers and inhabitants thereof, and to the successors of the said Prebendary, Vicar, and parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel, as had been accustomed and observed of old time, and as far as they concern any of the parties aforesaid severally and conjointly; and as to these things, all and singular, let them acknowledge, and be held to acknowledge for all time to come, that they pertain to the said persons and to their successors, so far as they concern them conjointly and severally, as premised. Moreover, the parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel, all and singular, shall observe and solemnly celebrate the day of the dedication of the said Chapel and cemetery, as a Greater Double Feast, after they shall have been consecrated; and also they shall abstain from all servile labour on that day for all time to come. Item, with the consent of the parties aforesaid, we ordain decree and settle finally that the Chaplain for the time being in the Chapel of Revelstoke aforesaid shall say, celebrate, and minister therein the Divine services and other sacraments and sacramentals on convenient days, hours and times. Moreover, in the Chapel of Saint John the Baptist at the township called Nasse-Mayhu,* situated within the boundaries and limits of the parish of the said Chapel of Revelstoke, he shall say and celebrate mass and other hours on ferial days, so far as has been customary to do hitherto, and up to the present time, in the same. And if it happen that the said parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel, or any one of them, should hire any priest to celebrate therein for themselves in particular, or for any one of them, they shall always do so with the licence of the said Vicar or his successor; and the said priest shall swear to the said Vicar for the time being, at the time of his admission, that he will be faithful therein to him and his interest, and in no way prejudice the rights of his Vicarage. And if there should arise from amongst the parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel any reckless violator of the above, or of our present ordinance and composition, after one monition, publicly pronounced in the Chapel itself, by the said Vicar or his successor, or by the Chaplain in his name, on some Lord's Day, requiring that, within eight days immediately following, they make amends effectually without delay, for that in which they have offended against our ordinance; and if forthwith, and within the aforesaid period, they shall not have made full satisfaction, as premised, in the matter wherein they have offended, let the said Chapel be there and then suspended from the celebration of the Divine offices, without any solemnity of law or legal process; and let the parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel themselves be deprived of ecclesiastical burial there, and of all other privileges which by virtue of such consecration shall have been established in the said Chapel and cemetery, until they shall have made competent satisfaction for their delinquencies, together with the losses and injuries incurred. And in the meantime, let the parishioners of the aforesaid Chapel, all and singular, be bound by this decree aforesaid, to come to the Parochial

Church of Yealmpton aforesaid for the hearing of the Divine offices, or for the ministration to them of the sacraments and sacramentals, until full compensation and satisfaction in all respects shall have been made as well to the Vicar as to the parishioners of the Mother Church of Yealmpton for the delinquencies, injuries and losses aforesaid. Moreover, the explanation, interpretation, and supplementing of the premises, all and singular, if anything doubtful or ambiguous may perchance have emerged out of, or in respect to any of them, or may arise afterwards, we specially reserve to ourselves and to our successors the Bishops of Exeter.

An annual payment of 2s. 8d. is mentioned in the Churchwardens' accounts of Yealmpton for several years, the latest being 1637, and we assume that the other conditions, *e.g.*, the repair of part of the churchyard wall and the attendance of the parishioners of Revelstoke on certain days for Divine worship were duly observed. But we fear that the "Chaplain" and inhabitants of Revelstoke are at least two centuries in arrears both in their payments and devotions. The Vicar and Churchwardens of Yealmpton are quite willing to make another "Composition" and so close the account! This arrangement relieved the pressure upon the space available at Yealmpton, and for another four centuries the accommodation was found adequate to the requirements of the parishioners. But when the church was rebuilt, the question of the extension of the churchyard was raised, and in 1857, Mr. B. J. P. Bastard presented and enclosed a piece of ground, numbered 90, 91, and 92 on the Tithe Map. At the vestry meeting held March 25th, 1857, on the proposal of Mr. John Anthony, seconded by Mr. James Adams, Mr. Bastard was thanked for the gift, and was "requested to select a portion of the same new ground for a family burial ground by payment of a nominal fee of 1s. to the Vicar and Churchwardens of this Parish." Mr. Bastard chose a piece of ground in the south-west corner, and here a roomy vault was constructed for twelve coffins. The first to be interred in it was Mr. Edmund Bastard, whose body was removed at midnight from the grave, where he had been buried twelve months before, *viz.*, June 20, 1856. Thirty years afterwards negotiations were opened with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for granting a piece of ground on the north side of the churchyard, and after a protracted and intermittent correspondence this was effected, on condition that Mr. Bastard also granted a small piece of ground on the north side of the vicarage, thus extending the premises to Bowden Lane. The new ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Exeter, July 1903, the improvement costing £40.

CHAPTER X.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

THE earliest Churchwardens' account that has been saved is dated 1615, but it is much decayed through damp and rough usage. The oldest *complete* account bears the date 1618, and this, as a fair sample of the remainder, is printed *in extenso*. The most interesting of the items in the other accounts, which occur, with some breaks, from 1614 to 1648, have been added, but space prevents us from giving them in full. It is much to be regretted that more care has not been taken to preserve these historical documents. Some of them are so rotten that it is impossible to touch them without fragments coming away on the fingers. Fortunately all that have survived have been transcribed, so that, should the originals perish, copies may remain. Many items recur each year, and it would be superfluous as well as monotonous to publish them: *e.g.*, the Churchwardens' dinners at the Visitations, the rent paid by the Churchwardens of Revelstoke, sundry repairs, contributions to the gaol hospital, and King's purveyor, the cost of communion wine, cleaning the armour, etc.

THE ACCOUNT OF PETER RAWE AND HENRY TREBY, . . .

Wardens for the yeare of our Lord 1617, made the first daye of Maye, 1618, as followeth

Receipts

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Imprimis the saide Churchwardens and accomptants doe charge themselves with eight pounds seaven shillinge and eleven pence received from John Crocker, Esq., and Thomas Stevens, which rested in their accompts due to the Church, I paye | viii - vii - xi |
| „ more received of Lawrence Slade for the olde Byble | x |
| „ more for the Rent due from Revel- stook this yeare ended | ii - viii |
| „ more collected by the Rate as appeares by the booke | xx - x - $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | xxix - x - vii $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Payments

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Imprimis at the Visetation at Plimton for their booke of articles, Peter farthinge, and presentments | iiii - vi |
| „ for sendinge a Coppye of our Register to Exon then | i - vi |
| „ for our Dynners the old wardens the minister and sidemen | v - x |
| „ for a quart of Wyne and bread the xxviith of Aprill | x $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd John Lang the vith of May by ane agreement then made with hym for that hee said hee was behind unpayd for keeping the bells half a year ffive shillings I have payd | v |
| „ pd then for writtinge the bylls and inventories with the presentments and bookes to collect by | iiii |
| „ pd Mr. Nicholas Pollexfen for the new bridge in Plympton Marye the 4th of June | xxi - ix |
| „ pd for 6 qts of wine and bread at Whitsontide | vi - i |
| „ pd William Vaby for mending the wheles of the bells the 14th of June | vi vi |
| „ for a Lock to the Steple doore then | |
| „ pd Thomas Marwood, gent., for the . . . of the Rate for the goaile and maymed soldiers due at ester 1617 | vii - $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd Mr. Nicholas Pollexfen for the goaile maymed soldiers and hospitall for Midsommer quarter | vii - $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd hym the 7th of July for bridgethe bridge | iii - x $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd for a pynt of Wyne and bread the 18th of July | vi $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd William Vaby the 20th of July for Razeing Mr. Warrings seat heigher | vii |
| „ pd for cutting the weedes in the Churchycarde | viii |
| „ pd John Lange for half a yeares paye for keeping the bells ended at Michaelmas, 1617 | x |
| „ pd Mr. Nicholas Pollexfen for the goaile maymed soldiers and hospitall for Michaelmas quarter | vii - $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Payments

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------------|
| „ pd the officers of Sr Richard Champlownes band and for the Muster Maisters all this yeare | v - | v $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd William Vaby for setting upp the Pulpitt | 2 - | 8 |
| „ pd six trayned soldiers for their paye at the muster | iiii | |
| „ pd John Lang for helping William Vaby to sett upp the Pullpitt | | vi |
| „ pd Robert Clowter then for lymeinge the Piller | | iiii |
| „ pd for Lath nayles used about the Pulpitt | | ii |
| „ pd for Wyne and bread the 18th of November | iiii - | i |
| „ pd George Glowinge for two Bucketts and Lynces | | viii |
| „ for a brace for the bell whele | | iiii |
| „ for nayles for the same and braces for the pulpit and speekes (spikes?) | | xii |
| „ for making a newe keye and mending the locke of the Chest in the Chancell | | vi |
| „ for a newe bowe for the Churche doare keye and for speekes and nayles for the same | | vi |
| „ for wyne and bread at Christyde | vi - | i |
| „ pd Mr Nicholas Pollexfen for the goayle maymed soldiers and hospitall for Christmas qtr | vii - | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd John Lang for washing and mending the surplusses and Churche Cloathes this yeare | xxi - | |
| „ pd John Lang for keeping the bells for halfe a yeare ended at our ladye daye 1618 | x | |
| „ pd for 200 of healing stones | | vi |
| „ pd the glasier for mending the Church winders | x | |
| „ pd for wood for the glasier | | ii |
| „ pd for Latches nayles and pynnes for the hellier | | xiii ² |
| „ for a bushell of Lyme | | vii |
| „ for fletching the Lyme sande and stone with horse and man | | viii |
| „ pd for the hellyer for his wages | | xix |
| „ pd Smoote for making cleane the armour this year ended at our ladye daye 1618 | v | |

² Probably Schmidt (or Smut), a German. The Germans at this period were expert in this work.

Payments

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| „ pd Matthew Browning for the goayle maymed soldiers and hospetall for our ladye daye qtr | vii - $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ pd hym then for the Kinge purveyour for the whole yeare then ended | vii - ii |
| „ pd Mr Moris for a Sermon preached the — of Marche | vi - viii |
| „ pd for a lock for the Churchyard gate | vi |
| „ pd Georg Glowing for twoe Staples | xiii |
| „ pd for 11 qts of wyne and bread for Palm Sondaye | x - ii |
| „ pd for making upp the Churchyard wall | iii - |
| „ pd for 5 qts of wyne and bread the Wednesday before ester | iii - viii |
| „ pd for 9 qts of wyne and bread for ester even | viii - viii |
| „ pd for 14 qts of wyne for ester daye and bread | xiii |
| „ pd Lawrence Slade for a sword for the parishe | v |
| „ allowed Mr Warren for writting a coppye of our Register weh was sent to Exon | xv |
| „ allowed Henry Rosedew for a warrant for blight the 29th of Aprill | vi |
| „ for his passage at Saltash his horse hyer and dynnere | xv |
| „ for his dynner at the muster at Modberrye | v |
| „ pd for writting and making this accompt | ii |
| „ pd the Constable for sending the boys to the goayle | vi - vii |
| Soe all our payments and allowances l s | |
| being xi - iiiii | |

l s

And our reccate xxvi - x - vii

There resteth in our hande) xviii - vi - vii
weh wee are to account for)EXTRACTS FROM CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS FROM
1614 TO 1648.

[1614] The Accompts of Lawrence
(Slade ?) and John Reynells
Church Wardens, for the year
of our lord god 1614, made the
first day of May, 1615

pd Smoote* for his halfe yeares paye ii - vi

* Vide p. 35.

pd for a staple for the [chest]
where the Armour is kept

vi

1620] The accompts of Nicholas Pollex-
fen gent and Nicholas Carne
Church Wardens for this laste
yeare paste 1620 made the
three and twentieth daye of
April 1621

pd to Henry Treby for the repay-
ring of Teyng Bridge

11 - 7

pd unto George Glowing 22nd of
Maye for mending of 3 Clappers
of the bells

6 - 10

pd for 2 barrells to put the gun-
powder in

0 - 0 - 6

it. pd for mending a muskett reste

0 - 0 - 3

it. pd the same time [i.e. 12th of
March] unto Henry Treeby for
[repayinge] of Houle Bridge

1 - 1 - 9½

(Thirty-three and a half quarts of
wine for the Holy Communion
were purchased this year)

(Incomplete.)

[1621] Henry Rosedue, Churchwarden.

it. pd the 26 of Aprill for that
the parish was presented for
not goinge our perambulations
and for our dynners

3 - 6

it. spent when we went our per-
ambulations

2 - 0

it. pd for a bottell to fetch wyne
in for the parish

2 - 6

item given to Irish people that
came with a pass

1 - 0

item pd 26 of May for the Tynners
paye

4 - 6

item pd for 10 lbs of bullets and
for mending of the moold

3 - 0

item pd for drinke when the great
stones were hoven upon the
bridge

1 - 6

it pd for 30 lbs of gunpowder

1 - 13 - 0

There is allowed this present yere
to John Crokker esquire John Pollex-
fen John Wolcombe, Nicholas Pollex-
fen and Henry Holberton gent towarde
the discharge of the parishen case

which they have laid out their pay-
ments to the church. (viz.)

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|----|
| John Crokker | 1 - | 3 - | 3 |
| John Pollexfen | 1 - | 4 - | 2 |
| John Wolcombe | | 16 - | 10 |
| Nicholos Pollexfen | 1 - | 1 - | 0 |
| Henrie Holberton | | 7 - | 6 |
| | 4 - | 12 - | 6 |

(Fifty-seven quarts of wine for Holy
Communion were purchased this
year, of which nine were used at
Christmas and eighteen at Easter).

A noate which I have paid and
allowed.

| | | |
|---|-------------|----|
| „ first to John Brookine | iiii - ii - | x |
| „ Allowed to John Sexton for that he paid 10 souldiers vid a peece trayninge to Yealmton the 23 of May 1621 | | v |
| „ more allowed John Sexton that he paid to Martayne Dearinge towards his charge in lawe | | v |
| „ paid for a glassen bottell to fetch wine in | | |
| „ for writtinge the rate for the Church for the Wordens to collect by | | i |
| „ pd 19 of June to the Con- stable of the hundred for the officers pay | iii - ii | |
| „ pd then 16 souldiers viii a peece for their pay | v - viii | |
| „ pd 3 of July to Nicholas Elwitt Constable at Yealm- ton | | vi |
| „ pd 5 of July to the Clerke of the markite | | x |
| „ pd then for the dynners for three warned for the jury 9d. a peece | ii - iii | |

som vi - vi - xi

For these I crave allowance under
written

- „ Sir Warwicke Hele Knight
for the yeare vi - iii
„ James Eamett for the yeare ii

[1622] The Accounts of George Brook-
inge and William Steeven
Churchwordens for the year
past 1622 made 14th daye of
Aprill 1623

- „ payd for spearrows (spears) to
repeare Worsewill bickken
(beacon) the 27 of May vii
„ payd the Hellier for carrying
the spearrows to Stoake iiiii
(Incomplete.)

[1623 missing]

[1624]

- „ pd for Peter flarthinge then i - vi
„ pd hym (Smootc) then for
newe leathers wch he sett
on the parishion armour then viii
„ pd by the Constables for
sendinge of Elinor Ball to
prison the xxixth of Sep-
tember xv -
„ pd hyme (George Glowinge)
then for mendinge of the
Beer vi
„ pd for 45 quarts of wyne for
the sev(er)all comunions
this year at xid. pr quart (ii) - i - iii
„ pd Mr. John Pollexfen of
Kitley for xviii pounds of
powder at xiiid pr pound xix - vi
(Incomplete)

[1625] The accompts of Henry Treby
and Richard Dearnier Church-
wardens for the last yere paste
of our lord God 1625 made the
sixth of Aprill 1626 for the
Church and expenses in about
the Church and parishion bus-
ness of Yealmpton during the
yere aforesaid

- „ more received for the burial
of Mrs. Johane Wolcomb
in the Church vi - viiii

[1626]

| | |
|---|--------|
| it. pd unto Thomas Smith and his sone for eleven days worke for whitinge and paintinge the Church | 19 - 6 |
| it. pd unto Nicholas Morse for making cleane the Church and rubinge the seats | 0 - 8 |
| it. pd for liddinge [leading] and sodderinge of nineteen ffoote at 4½d. the ffoote | 7 - 1½ |
| it. for ten dozen of quarrels at 11d. per dozen | 9 - 2 |
| it. pd unto Francis Newton for goinge unto Exon about the Admiralty Courte | 7 - 0 |
| it. pd for a booke of ffastinge and prayer in the sicknesse time | 2 - 0 |
| it. pd Edward Algar for Reed for the beacon | 7 - 0 |
| it. pd to Henry Hel: for hare when he did white the Church | 0 - 8 |
| it. pd for a Table of consanguinity and affinity | 1 - 0 |
| it. for six quarts and a pint of wine for a Communion on the 26th of March | 6 - 7 |
| it. for Ten quarts of wine and bread the second of Aprill | 10 - 2 |
| it. for Three quarts and a pint of wine and bread the 8th of Aprill | 3 - 7 |
| „ for eleven quarts of wine and bread ye 9th of Aprill | 11 - 2 |
| (Fifty eight quarts of wine for the Holy Communion were purchased this year.) | |

[1627]

| | |
|---|-------------|
| pd towards the repairinge of Chidley Bridge | xiiii - vi½ |
| pd to William Burges about Julie last 1626 for watching by a ffrench man that lay sick at Yoe Crosse | ii |
| pd for meat and drink for hym whilst hee lay there sick, for drink iiid, for milk id for butter id for bread id for fish id | |
| pd for bread for Henry Smith the ffirst night that he was taken upon suspition of ffelony | ii |

| | |
|---|--------|
| pd for three men for — (t) hings of hyme [him] the second night | i - vi |
| pd for candles that night | i½ |
| pd for a paire of shoes for hym before he was carried to prison | x |
| pd for carrying of hym to prison | xi |
| pd for meat and drink for hym before he was carried away— two daies | vi |
| (Incomplete.) | |

[1628-1629 missing]

[1630]

| | |
|---|-----------|
| it. pd to two Irish women who had a patent from the Bishop of Exeter to gather | 2 (?) - 0 |
| it. pd unto the Constables for the repairing of Bow bridge Brent Bridge Lew (?) Bridge and Barnstiple Bridge | 4 - 4 |
| (Incomplete.) | |

[1631 missing]

[1632]

The Account of ffrancis Croker
gent and Daniell Hare Church-
wardens in the year of our
Lord god 1632 made the —
day of may ano 1633 as fol-
loweth Imprimis these ac-
comptants doe charge them-
selves with seaven pounds two
shillings and two pence re-
ceived from William Crokker
and of the last Churchwardens
wel rested due unto the
parish from him at this Ac-
count

I say rend vii ii ii

ALLOWANCES.

| | |
|--|------------|
| I pray to be allowed of thirtie shillings paid unto Mr. Woods of Plimouth for curing of Nicholas Stevens arme | 1 - 10 - 0 |
| it. mor for three weekes diet for Nicholas Stevens | 15 - 0 |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|------------|
| | it. mor for washing Nicholas Stevens clothes | 2 - 0 |
| | it. mor for sendinge an Irish woman to Brixton | 0 - 3 |
| [1633] | The Account of Peter Algar and <i>Margaret</i> Welsh widow her deputie Churchwardens in the year of our lord god 1633 made the——of——ano 1634 mor reed for the buriall of Henry Daw | vi - viii |
| | it. pd for a booke of Common prayer the 20th of Julie | 11 - 6 |
| | it. for 10 yeards of holland at 0s. 8d. the yeard to make surplices | 6 - 8 |
| | it. for makinge the surplices | 7 - 0 |
| | it. pd the Constables then for Two bridge | 5 - 2 |
| | it. for a booke of authority for pastimes to be used | 0 - 6 |
| | it. for 6 quarts and a pint of wine and bread the 23 of March | 6 - 7 |
| | it. for 10 quarts of wine the 30th of March and for bread | 10 - 2 |
| | it. for three quarts of wine and bread the 5th of Aprill | 3 - 1 |
| | it. for 11 quarts of wine and bread the 6th of Aprill | 11 - 2 |
| | (Forty-nine quarts used this year.) | |
| [1634] | it. for a loake for the Chaple doore for a Staple and for setinge up of yt | 1 - 6 |
| | for a booke of Articles at the <i>Archbishops</i> Visitation and for Peter farthinge | 4 - 6 |
| | (Incomplete.) | |
| [1635 missing.] | | |
| [1636] | The Accounts of Peter Raw and Thomas Marwood Churchwardens for the year 1636. Received for the buriall of Henry Copplestone's daughter Esq in the Church | 3 - 4 |
| [1637] | it. pd the Clarke for his wages wh was due unto him for the last yeare | 4 - 18 - 0 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| it. pd the Clarke for his wages for the quarter ended at Mid- summer | 10 - 0 |
| it. for lime and for a man to wash out the Sentences in the church | 1 - 0 |
| it. for boords wh were used in the Church to set upp the Kings Armes in yt | 4 - 10 |
| it. pd William Treby for new ffitinge the place for the Kings Armes | 3 - 0 |
| it. pd unto Arthur Coal for flor- ishinge the Church | 4 - 0 - 0 |
| it. pd unto the Constables Esq ffirst of January for New Bridge in Newton St. Cyres and for Creedy bridge in Upton Prior | 1 - 1 - 10 |
| it. pd for mending the stoupe | 0 - 4 |
| it. pd for an hower glasse and for Iron worke for the same | 1 - 7 |
| The Account of John Crokker Esqre and Richard Stevens Churchwardens for this year 1637. | |
| (Sixty five quarts of wine pur- chased for Holy Communion) this year | |

[1638—1647 missing.]

[1648] The Accompts of William Dun-
ridge and — Carne Church-
wardens of the p(ar)ishe of
Yealmpton in the yeare of our
Lord god 1648 made the 4th
of Aprill 1649

| | |
|--|-------------|
| it. given to ane Irishe man att Mr. Shepheard's request | 0 - 01 - 00 |
| it. given to a Cripple that had children wth hym | 0 - 01 - 00 |
| it. given to two Irishe people | 0 - 00 - 06 |
| it. given to 2 Irishe men and their wyves | 0 - 00 - 10 |
| it. given to 2 other Irishe people | 0 - 00 - 06 |
| it. given to Alyse Morrishe ane Irishe woman | 0 - 00 - 04 |
| it. given to 2 men wch were taken by Irishe pirates | 0 - 00 - 06 |
| it. given to ane Irishe woman | 0 - 00 - 02 |

| | | |
|---|--------|------|
| it. pd for a Bason for Baptisein | 0 - 00 | 08 |
| More I sue to be allowed of those weh have not payde their rates but allous yt unto the parishe for depts due unto them | | |
| Imprimis Agnes Browne vid allowes her Rate for Rent due from Willmott Deoringe in her lyfe tyme ordered by the Justices to be allowed unto her | 0 - 01 | - 07 |
| Allowed unto Andrew Legas- sicke and Edmond Algar jun. weh they payd out for the p(ar)yshe for Lodswill bridge | 0 - 05 | - 02 |
| it. allowed unto James Eliott for his charges in sending a Verdict of the Jury for the Admiralty to Exon | 0 - 01 | - 00 |
| (There is no mention of any wine for Communion this year.) | | |

[Dates missing]

| | | |
|---|------|---|
| (1) for our expenses for viewing the bands of the parish in Rogacon weake | 2 - | 0 |
| (2) Delivered John Cooke for his journey to Exon concerning Yealm bridge | 10 - | 0 |
| (3) pd Symon Algar for travel- ling to Sir Shilston Calmady | 2 | 6 |
| (4) pd Mr Francis Crocker for a journey to Exon about Yealm bridge | 7 - | 0 |

—

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) pd more for a tynning pott for the Communion Table | 4 - | 6 |
| (2) pd to Lawrence Slade for a sword scabberd | 1 - | 4 |
| (3) pd to Henry Treby for the Tynners paye | 3 | |

—

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| (1) paid for a new sheath for a dagger and iii sheathes for swords | | |
| (2) paid Benjamin Baker for florty pounds of powder | | |

(3) pd f(or food) and drink for
them that did help to take
down the bell (of) the Church
again after it was cast

(4) pd for Rode and Sparrows
for the beacon house at Wors-
well and for the Carriage
thereof

(5) pd for twenty pounds of pou-
der more

(6) pd for fforty pounds of matche

(1) pd towards the repairinge of
Chidley Bridge

(2) pd to William Burges about
Julie last 1626 for watching
by a ffrench man that lay sick
at Yoe Crosse

xiiii - vi½


ii



CHAPTER XI.

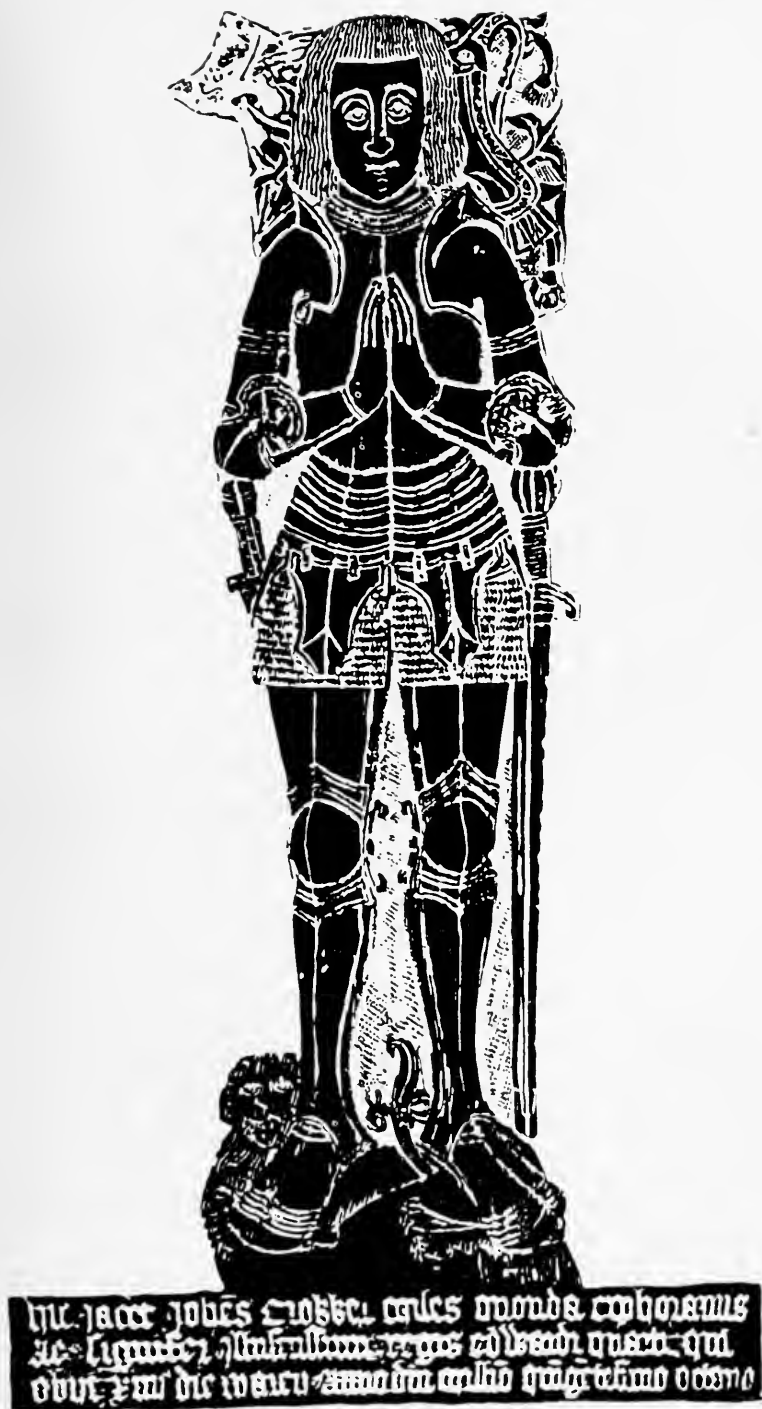
CHURCH MONUMENTS.

Inscriptions on Brass.

- (1.)  IC jacet Johes Crokker miles quonda ciphoranus et signifer illustrissimi regis Edwardi quartii qui obiit xiiii die marcii anno di millio quigesimo octavo.

[*Translation*: Here lies John Crokker, Knight, once cupbearer and standard-bearer of the most illustrious King Edward IV., who died 14 March A.D. 1508.]

[NOTE.—The following particulars of the Croker (Crokker or Crocker) family are extracted from Prince's *Worthies of Devon*, the compiler himself being descended from the Crokers, on his mother's side. Lineham was sometime the inheritance of John, surnamed, from his house, Lineham. In which name it continued from King John's days, unto the reign of King Edward III. Then Topcliffe had it, and his son after him. In the beginning of King Henry IV.'s days John Crocker dwelled there. The family came originally from Crocker's Hele in the parish of Meath in Sheaber hundred. The ancient inheritance of Crocker is supposed to be Crocker's well or Crockern-well in Drewsteignton. Another place connected with this family is Crockern Tor, where the parliament was wont to be held for stannery causes. Before the Norman Conquest Crockers lived in England, and therefore may claim to be at least of Saxon origin. "I have heard the present heir of the family, Courtenay Crocker, of Lineham, Esq. (who hath been a traveller . .) say that when he was in Saxony he met several gentlemen of his name there, and that they gave the same coat of arms as he doth." . . . As to the present seat of the family, Lineham aforesaid, it is an ancient house, which being grown weak and decrepit thro age, is now a repairing or rather rebuilding by the present possessor, Courtenay Crocker. . . . There was also a park belonging to the same, useful both for sport and hospitality, and (what I should have mentioned first) an antient chappel, for the more decent worship and service of Almighty God, now wholly neglected. . . . Most of the



A Brass in memory of Sir John Croker.

heirs of this family in antient times were called John; no less than seven so named succeeded one the other, without intermission, who matched into several eminent houses as Arundel, Pollard, Strode, Yeo, and others: and with divers daughters and heirs, as Servington, Daune, Bonvil. And the present possessor Courtenay Crocker, Esq., son of John by—his wife, sister of Sir Courtenay Pole of Shute, baronet, married first—daughter and co-heir of Richard Hillardson of Membland, Esq. by whom he hath issue one daughter. Secondly he married Sarah, daughter and co-heir of John Tucker, of Exeter, gentleman.

As to Sir John Crocker, what brought him first into favour at Court, whether courage or skill in arms or readiness of address, or what else I do not find: but he became so gracious with King Edward IV. that he was admitted his sworn servant in the honourable office of his cup-bearer: who, *in remuneratione servitii* gave a cup d'or, for the crest, unto his coat armour, and moreover bestowed upon him the Order of Knighthood. . . . Perkin Warbeck laid siege to Exeter with 6,000 men. Lord Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, Lord William his son, accompanied with Sir William Courtenay, Sir Edmund Carew, Sir Thomas Fulford, Sir John Hallwell, Sir John Crocker and others, went to the relief of "the ever-faithful city," and compelled the Pretender to retire. This is the Sir John commemorated in the brass.

This account may be supplemented by the further statement that between the Topcliffes and Crockers in the possession of Lincham came the Churchills. Collins in his *English Baronage* says that Giles Churchill, 2nd son of Elias Churchill (who lived in the reign of Edward II., and whose 3rd son was the ancestor of the great Duke of Marlborough) had the lordships of Yealmpton and Lincham, which estates by a daughter and heir descended to the family of Crocker. This daughter and heir was Agnes, who was married to Sir John Croker. Their son John married, in 1396, the heiress of Hemerdon. (He is mentioned in a Commission of Array, in the County of Devon, issued to Thomas Carrewe, Knight, Robert Chalons, Knight, Richard Hankeford, Esquire, Philip Courtenay, Esquire, Robert Carey, Esquire, and John Crocker of Lynam, to resist certain Bretons who are at sea with a great fleet intending to invade England (Membrane 4d. Patent Rolls, May 19, 1427). It is curious that Crocker is styled neither knight nor esquire, like the others. Hence their son was known as Sir John Croker of Lincham and Hemerdon. This Croker, when quite a youth, was present at the Battle of Agincourt: and it is his son, the most famous of the Lincham line,

who is commemorated by the brass. Edward IV. knighted him, and, as already stated, gave him as a crest a cup d'or, having in the centre a rose proper. This crest was augmented, in 1475, by Louis XI with three Fleurs de Lys proper, when Sir John accompanied his royal master to France. From the Crokers Lynham passed to the Bulteels, by the marriage of Mary Crocker to James Bulteel of Flete; and from the Bulteels it came by purchase to the Bastards, the present owners.]

- (2.) *Esto memor jacobī precibus pia virgo*

[*Translation* :—May the Holy Virgin be mindful in her prayers of James ?]

[NOTE.—This brass is of great interest (*a*) because it is part of a much larger one, the remainder having disappeared; (*b*) because it bears on the back a translation of a Latin inscription, preserved in the church, to make room for which, apparently, the original brass was mutilated. The brass itself is of the 15th century, and the mutilation could not have been made *earlier* than 1580. Dr. Warner, principal of the MSS. Department, British Museum, is of opinion that the inscription is meant for a hexameter, and is in memory of a priest, probably vicar of the parish, whose Christian name was James, the surname having been cut off with the rest of the inscription. He also thinks that the male figure with the pilgrim's staff is St. James. There was no vicar of this parish bearing the Christian name of James till the beginning of the 19th century. A more probable identification makes the figure Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary who also appears in the group, with possibly St. John the Baptist as the third figure.]

- (3.) “ Thrice shined September sunne fyve hundred yeares
 thrice spent
 And four times twenty were since Christ to earth was
 sent
 When Isabell the wief of Copelstone deare did
 dye.
 The Third day buried thence nowe here in tombe
 doth lye
 To Henry ffortescue third daughter by degree
 And Agnes Eake his mother's name of Sainct
 Maure's blode was she.

[NOTE.—(3) is the obverse of (2). Also a translation of (4).]

- (4.) *Tertia vix Septembris erat, ter erant et Jesu
 Verhigenae quingenti anni, quater atque viginti,
 Quando obiit Coplestoni conjunx Isabella:
 Tertio et inde die loculo est illata Sepulchro*



Mutilated Brass (XVth Century) with Inscription :

"Memo Jacobi precibus pia virgo."

Henrici (Egide forti tertia erat ordine nata
Agnetis Sancti et Mauri de sanguine cretae.

- (5.) Regina Elizabeth summa cum laude Britannos
Annos bis denos ultraque regente decembris
Luce quoque undecima mors immatura Johannem
Copstonum eripuit, juvenem florentibus annis
Annos vix etenim compleverat octo viginti
Sed patri fuit ille suo pes, auris, ocellus,
Solum solamen fuit et spes unica patris.
Sed cur justorum mortes deflemus iniqui
Quum certum est migrare pios in gaudia cœli
Non etenim perimit, sed mors sit transitus illis
In vitam meliorem ubi sunt sine fine perennes.
In quorum numero nos te, Copstone, colemus.

[*Translation* :—Queen Elizabeth had reigned over the British for twenty years and more, worthy of the greatest praise, when on the 11th day of December, a premature death carried off John Copstone (*sic*), a young man, in the prime of life, for he was scarcely twenty eight years old. Still he was to his father foot, ear and eye. He was his father's sole comfort and only hope. But why should we sinners lament the death of the just, since it is certain that the pious pass away into the joys of heaven? For death does not destroy them, but may be for them a passage into a better life where they live for ever. In their number we will regard thee, O Copstone!" Vide infra p. 50.]

JESU MERCY.

- (6.) In Memory of Edmund Pollexfen Bastard of Kitley in this Parish born 12 July 1784, deceased 8th June 1838: and of Anne Jane his wife, born 12 January 1793, deceased 25 April 1833 whose bodies sleep beneath this Church, This tablet was placed by their three sons Edmund, Baldwin, and William, who pray God to grave deep in their hearts the lessons of truthfulness and reverence, of kindness and charity, and the fear and love of God learnt from them in childhood.

INSCRIPTIONS ON STONE.

- (1.) Hic jacet Johannes Crokker, Armiger, una cum Alicia et Alicia uxoris, qui obiit xiiii die Mensis Martii anno dom. MCCCCXXXIII.

[*Translation* :—Here lies John Crokker esquire, together with his wives Alice and Alice, who died March 14th 1433.]

- (2.) Here lieth the Body of William Croker, Esq. Counsellr at Law, who died the 1st day of December 1699, aged 30 years.

- (3.) Here lieth also the Body of Elizabeth Croker His Sister Being both the Son and Daughter of William Croker of Winsor, Gent., who died the 2nd day of April 1701, aged 30 years.
- (4.) Here lieth the Body of William Croker, of Winsor, Gent., who died the 19th day of January Anno Domini 1714, aged 74 years.
- (5.) Here lieth the Body of Petronell Croker the daughter of William Croker Gent., of Windsor in this Parish, who departed this life the 19th day of March 1727, in the 62 year of her age. Leaving a Legacy of Thirty pounds, the Interest of which is to be distributed yearly on the 2nd of February among the Poor of the Parish of Yealmpton.

[NOTE.—“Mrs. Petronell Croker, by her will gave to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of Yealmpton and their successors 30*l* to be lent at interest on good security or laid out in the purchase of land, and the interest or profit thereof, after all necessary allowances, to be distributed among such poor housekeepers of the said parish as the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor or the major part of them, should think most proper and convenient, on the 2nd of February every year. The above mentioned legacy, together with the sum of 70*l* given by the will of Mrs. Alice Knowling, to the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this Parish, was laid out in the year 1766 in the purchase of a deed poll of Modbury turnpike for 100*l*, bearing interest at 4 p.c. The interest is received from the treasurer of the turnpike and is distributed once in 2 or 3 years by the minister and parish officers in clothes blankets and money among all the poor housekeepers of the parish. The poor of the parish are very numerous, and an annual distribution amongst them would be of little service.” Extract from Report of the Charity Commissioners, 1820.]

- (6.) Here lieth the Body of Mary the wife of Henry Coplestone, of Boydon Esquire, and eldest daughter of Humfry Were, of Halberton in Devon, Esqr, Counsel-at-Law who died the last of June anno Domini 1630. *Christus nobis vita.*

[NOTE.—This is the inscription upon an altar-tomb, the only one in the church. It stood originally against the east wall of the south transept (Kitley aisle), but some twelve years ago was removed to the north transept, and placed in the recess mentioned above. It still bears faint traces of the colours with which it was originally adorned, and, when new, must have presented a fine appearance. The front is embellished with seven

figures, father, mother, one son and three daughters, all kneeling, and a baby asleep in a cradle—probably a unique feature. The Coplestones lived at Bowden, which came into their possession by purchase in the middle of the 15th century. Walter Coplestone, third son of John Coplestone, of Coplestone (ob. 1457), bought the domain of Bowden, and named it Bowden after his wife Elizabeth, who was the sixth in descent from John de Bowden. The Coplestones had no knights in the family, but were whitespur esquires. This title of "whitespur," which was conferred by the King putting about the neck of the new esquire a collar of five esses, and presenting him with a pair of silver spurs, became hereditary, and belonged to the heirs male of the family. It is now obsolete.

There is a well-known couplet :—

"Croker, Carew and Coplestone

When the Conqueror came were found at home."

Of these pre-Norman families we have memorials of two, viz., the first and last.]

- (7.) Here lieth the Body of Johane the wife of John Woolcombe Gent, who departed this life August Anno Domini 1634.

- (8.) D.O.M. Sacrum Memoriaeque Mariae Woolcomb [ob. Junii xi. A.D. 1645], ac etiam Johannis Woolcomb de Pitton, generosi, Qui in uxorem accepta Domina Thomasine Francis, elapsisque octodecim in Connubio annis, Tandem apoplexia Mortuus est. In aeternum observantiae Symbolum Hoc Monumentum posuit Conjux ejus amantissima.

[*Translation* :—Sacred to the Most High God and to the memory of Mary Woolcomb (died June 11th A.D. 1645) and also of John Woolcomb of Pitton, gent., who married Mistress Thomasine Francis and, after eighteen years of married life, at last died of apoplexy. As a perpetual mark of respect, his most loving wife has placed this monument.

It will be observed that the date of John Woolcomb's death is not given on this stone. This omission is repaired in the following :—

- (9.) D. Opt. Max. Sacrum et Memorial Virorum illustr. Johannis Woolcomb de Pitton Generosi [obiit Junii x A.D. 1645] ac Henrici Woolcomb de Ashbury, illustrissimae Domae Elizabethae Stuckey mariti, Haereditis et Sororis Honorandi admodum viri Henrici Walteri E Familiae Hartfordiensi Armig., Cujus Mores ingenui et eximius animi Candor Et vel in vultu conspicuae Gratiae effecerunt ut amicos omnes haberet Quia omnibus amicus Cujus Ingenium charitasque minime ficta adeo insignia,

adeo Divina, Ut illum Heu nimis breve cælorum munus Exemplar nobis haud diuturnum fore praedixisse visa sint Apoplexia correptus Mortales tandem deposuit sarcinas Domumque se contulit. Ubi in Beatorum Album relatus Devoniae magnum vi desiderium reliquit. Ob. mens. Novemb. Anno Dom. 1692 Aetatis LVI.

[*Translation* :—Sacred to the Most High God and to the memory of the most illustrious men John Woolcomb of Pitton, gent., (he died June 10th A.D. 1651) and Henry Woolcomb, of Ashbury, husband of the most illustrious lady Elizabeth Stuckey, heiress and sister of the very worthy Henry Walter of the Hertford family, esquire, whose courteous manners and striking uprightness and distinguished and graceful presence made all men his friends. A friend to all, his real gentleness and kindness, as remarkable as it was Divine, seemed to foretel that he, alas ! too brief a gift from heaven, would not be an example to us long. Carried off by apoplexy at last, he laid aside his mortal burthen, and took himself home, where he was numbered in the book of the Blessed, but in Devonshire he was perforce greatly missed. He died in the month of November A.D. 1692 aged 56.

[NOTE.—He was baptized March 6th 1637-(1638).]

- (10.) Here lieth the body of Henry Woolcombe the second son of John Woolcombe of Pitton Gent. who died the 24 day of October 1696. Aged 14 years and 9 months.
- (11.) Hic humatur Corpus Nicolai Pollexfen gen. qui obiit 25^o die Martii A.D. 1642. Hic jacet quoque Corpus Petronellae Pollexfen uxoris ejus, quae obiit 27^{bris} A.D. 1679. Vixerunt in timore et in favore Domini, Annorum pleni ab hoc luce decesserunt.

[*Translation* :—Here lies buried the body of Nicolas Pollexfen gent., who died the 25th day of March A.D. 1642. Here lies also the body of Petronel Pollexfen his wife, who died the 27th of October A.D. 1679. They lived in the fear and favour of the Lord, and departed this life full of years.]

- (12.) In Memory of Edmund Pollexfen of Kitley Esqr who dyd A.D. 1710 in the 81st year of his age was this stone layn by Admonition his wife.
- (13.) M.S. Desideratissimi illius viri Edmundi Pollexfen de Kitley, Paterna & Antiqua Majorum Sede, Arm., E justitiariis in Agro Devon, & ejusdem Presidis Deputati : Juriconsulti vigilantissimi, subactae Legis oraculi : Patroni fallere nescii. Alienationis Instrumenta condere peritissimus, ubique audit : rata quaelibet ab Ipso Sententia stetit adhuc, atque inter Fas et Nefas dum

fuerit Discrimen, stabit. DEL.OPT.MAX., Regis, et Ecclesiae amicus, Conjugalibus his legati, Naturalis, Socialisque Vinculi religiosissimus ante omnes Cultor, emicuit. Munere quovis Humano probe functus tandemque Vita (proh dolor!) ipsa: nil, Christo Duce, desperans, sistitur ad Tribunal pacati Numinis, et aeternum virenti indefessi Laboris Palma remuneratur. Mortales interim exuviae subter, in spe beatae Resurrectionis, sepultae somno et Terra levi quiescunt. Annos octoginta & amplius emensus est, set citius in coelum rediit, pridie Idus Junii M.D. CCX

Incorrupta Fides, nudaque Veritas
Quando ullum invenient Parem.

Pietatis ergo, Anna Bastard, Filia ipsius unice superstes et haeres, maesta etiam Gulielmi Bastard de Gerston Arm. Relicta, H.M.P.

[*Translation*:—Sacred to the memory of that most esteemed man Edmund Pollexfen of Kitley, the family and ancient seat of his ancestors, esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace in the County of Devon, and Deputy-Lieutenant of the same, a most vigilant Counsellor at Law, an oracle of Statute Law, a Patron never known to fail: most skilful in drawing up Conveyance deeds: he heard all sides: any opinion whatever by him has stood confirmed so far, and, while there is a distinction between Right and Wrong, will stand. A friend of the Most High God, The King, and The Church, he outshone all men as a most religious observer of natural and social ties, being twice married. Having passed through every human office, and at length, alas! life itself, fearing nothing with Christ as his Leader, he stands at the tribunal of a reconciled Deity, and is rewarded for ever with the unfading palm of tireless labour. Meanwhile his mortal remains buried beneath, in hope of the blessed Resurrection, rest in sleep and in the light earth. He lived 80 years and more, but too quickly returned to heaven, June 12th 1710.

Faith uncorrupted, naked Truth,
When will they find his peer?

(HORACE, Bk. I., Ode xxiv.)

Of her piety Anna Bastard, his only surviving daughter and heiress, also the sorrowful widow of William Bastard of Gerston Esquire, has placed this monument.]

- (14.) M.S. Domini Georgii Woodward, Stirpe plusquam Plebeia in agro Bedfordiensi oriundi, Medici Docti Periti celebris, Mariti fidelissimi, Patris optimi, Pietate erga Deum, Parentes, Patriam, Integritate Morum, Humanitate amabili, in Laboribus subeundis infracta Patientia,

Insignis, Qui post varias Peragrationes Tandem Naturae Cursum peregit. Qui natus Anno 1657^o denatus 1723^o Ingens sui desiderium reliquit. Conjux ejus, quondam faelix nunc Maestissima vidua, Hoc monumentum posuit Anno Domini 1723^o.

[*Translation* :—Sacred to the memory of George Woodward, of more than humble birth, born in the County of Bedford, a learned, skilled and celebrated Doctor, a most faithful Husband, a very good Father, distinguished for his piety towards God, parents and country, for integrity of manners, for a lovable disposition, for unbroken patience in carrying out labours, who after various wanderings at length reached the term of nature: who was born in the year 1657, and died 1723. He left behind an intense affection for himself. His once happy wife, now most distressed widow, placed this monument A.D. 1723]

- (15.) Pollexfen Bastard of Kitley, Esq., died the 25th February 1732 aged 37.

In Grateful memory of those happy Years
She lived thy wife, accept the Widow's Tears.
Thy Spotless Truth and Friendship claim this Stone,
To Guard thy ashes and receive her own.

The Right Honourable Lady Bridgett, Daughter of John, first Earl Poulett, Relict of the above mentioned Pollexfen Bastard and mother of William Bastard of Kitley, Esquire, was buried near the Remains of Husband on the first day of August 1773.

- (16.) In Memoriam of
Edmund Bastard Baldwin Pollexfen Bastard
Aged 44 Aged 40

Both buried in this Church April 16 1773. A malignant Disease, whose fatal Force neither Temperance of Life, Serenity of Mind nor Rectitude of Manners could avert, tore one from the arms of a beloved wife and the other from those of a Parent who but a few months survived the loss of his unremitted and pious attention.

They were lovely in their Lives
And in Death they were not divided.

NOTE :—This inscription is surmounted by two female figures, the one, on the right of the spectator, holding a key to commemorate the fact that Mr. Baldwin Pollexfen Bastard fell dead as he was about to unlock the gate of his garden.

- (17.) Sacred to the Memory of John Pollexfen Bastard of Kitley, Esq., Colonel of the first or East Regiment of Devon Militia and representative of this County in seven successive Parliaments. He died at Leghorn iv April

MDCCCXVI in the LX year of his age and on XVII June was interred in this Church. And on the same day the remains of his only brother Edmund who died at Sharp-ham x June MDCCCXVI were deposited in the Church of Ashprington.

- (18.) To the Memory of Kitty Rosdew the wife of William Rosdew, daughter of John Mudge, M.D., of Plymouth. She died May the 1st 1789 aged 31 and is buried underneath this place together with two Infant Children.
- (19.) In a vault beneath near this tablet rest the remains of Silphine Holberton who died January 29th, 1790, aged 75. Also William Holberton her only son (of Dunston of this Parish) who died February 11th 1790 aged 34. Also Catherine, daughter of William and Mary Holberton, who died October 4th, 1792, aged 7 years.
- (20.) Sacred to the memory of Robert Watson, Esq., Vice-Admiral of the White; who departed this life on the 20th day of March 1819 to the inexpressible grief of his family, aged 77 years.
- (21.) This tablet is erected as an affectionate memorial by the surviving widow of the late James Simon Luscombe, Surgeon, formerly a resident of this Parish, who departed this life at Totnes on the 19th and was interred in this Churchyard on the 24th of April 1838, aged 42 years.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints. Psalm 116, 15v.

- (22.) Sacred to the memory of Thomas Veale Esq of Coffleet who died 1st Feb 1780. This bust was raised by his nephew and successor Thomas Lane, Esqr., in 1782, and placed in its present position by the Rev. R. Lane on the rebuilding of the Church Anno Domini 1852.


(The following entry occurs in the Overseer's Book for the Relief of the Poor:—

To cash received for a Moiety of the penalty of £5 incurred by the Burial of Thomas Veale Esq in this Parish the 8th day of Febry without an affidavit being made in due time after his Interment that his Body was wrapt in Sheep's wool only

2 - 10 - 0)

CHAPTER XII.

SOME EPITAPHS IN THE CHURCHYARD.

- (1.)  LORD, what great troubles and adversities hast thou shown me, yet thou didst turn, and refresh me and broughtest my enemy to shame : SHE that persecuted me and thrust sore at me, that I might fall ; but the Lord was my helper. SHE persecuted me, yea, she said she would persecute me even unto death. Let his children come and hearken unto the LORD : that they may keep their tongue from evil and their lips that they speak no guile.

(NOTE.—This headstone is erected as “a Tribute of Respect” !)

- (2.) My Coffin is my Bed my house a Grave
This little narrow Place is all I have.
Reader, read this, 'twill to thy Eyes discover
That my Glass is run, and time is over.
- (3.) When sudden Death did seize my tremb
len Heart, and Rapid gun did soul
and Body part. To worlds unknown my Spirit
Fled Before the awful Judge of
Quick and Dead.

[NOTE.—According to the statement of a nephew of deceased, the parishioners were much frightened by an apparition in the Churchyard. He borrowed a gun from a neighbour, and in attempting to shoot the apparition, the gun exploded and killed him on the spot where his tombstone now stands. The apparition was nothing more than a white cat.]

- (4.) Corruption, earth, and worms
shall but refine this flesh
till my triumphant spirit comes
to put it on afresh.
- (5.) In memory of James Shepherd, son of John and Jane Shepherd, late of this parish, who died at Berhampore, in the East Indies 12th of July, 1835, aged 35 years ; also Elizabeth his widow, and two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, killed in the Cawnpore Mutiny 1857.

- (6.) When lower and lower
I every Day fell,
Jesus put forth his power
And Saved me from Hell.
- (7.) I murmured not in my distress,
But Patient as a lamb
I did resign my soul to God,
At his appointed time.



CHAPTER XIII.

THE INSCRIBED STONE.



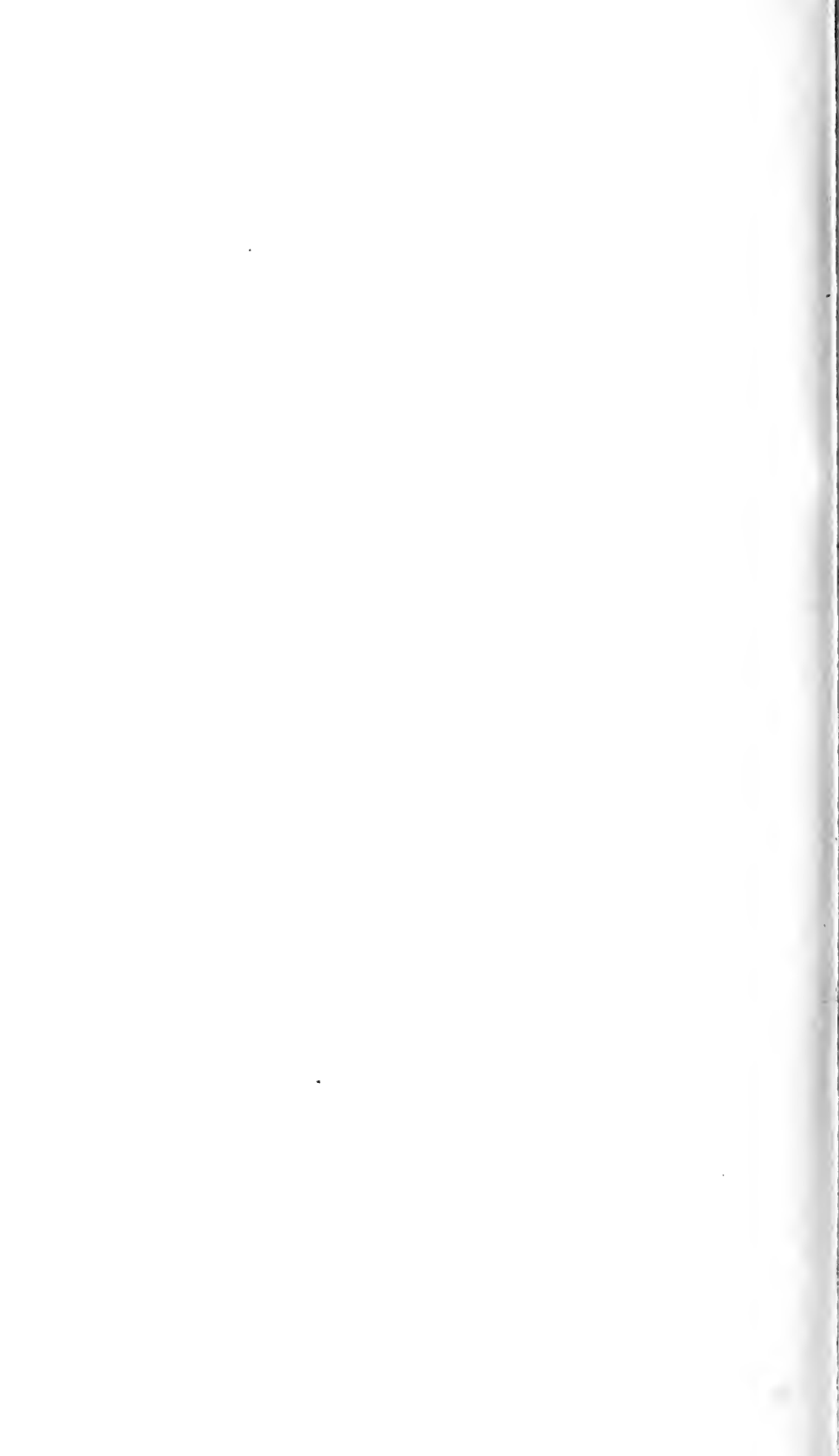
NE hundred years ago this stone was lying on the north side of the Churchyard, but how long it had been in that position it is impossible to say. This position is certified by an engraving, dated 1808, and a letter of Dr. Bellamy, dated August 26th, 1816. It now stands at the foot of a flight of steps, a few feet west of the Tower, and was set up there in 1851. According to the best authorities, the inscription should be read GOREUS, not TOREUS. The Rev. W. Jago, Professor Hubner, and others, agree that the first letter is "the hammer-headed G." In support of this the stones at St. Hilary, Stowford, Mawgan, and St. Cleer, may be adduced, on which this form of the letter *must* be G. In Erse and Anglo-Saxon inscriptions and manuscripts this form of G is used, and its form is still traceable in our own "g." Professor Hubner describes it thus: "Yealmpton, prope Plimstocke et Brixton, Devon, in coemeterio, cippus, altus, ped. 8 dig. 4, latus ped. 2 dig. 3, transverse scriptus. Crucis jacentis signum infra additum fortasse recentius. Exemplum tituli chartaceum propositum est in conventu Instituti Archaeologici Britannici an. 1851 in Bristol habito. Arch. Journal 8. 1851 p. 424. Gough's Camden 1. p. 47, ligno incisum dat a Jones missum, quod exemplum exhibeo; Lyson's Magna Britannia 6 p. cccviii citat tantum: Storer et Greig, Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet 4, 1808. J. Rhys non vidit. Lectio non usquequaque certa."

It is doubtful, however, whether the stone has a cross at all. What *appears* to be such is really a transverse natural depression which a strong imagination may fashion into a cross. Nor would it be practicable to erect the stone so that "the cross" should be visible. If the stone were inverted, so as to have "the cross" at the top, which is the usual position, not only would the stone not stand at all, but the inscription would have to be read upwards, contrary to the rule of reading such stones. The fact seems to be that these memorial-stones are older than crosses, which were an elaboration of the simple monolith.

A somewhat different account of the stone is given by Dr. S. E. Bellamy in a letter, dated August 26th, 1816. "The



*Ancient Stone in Yealampton Churchyard, with Inscription:
GOREUS.*



celebrated Cornish antiquarians, Dr. Borlase and Mr. Polwhele, in describing the monumental stones in Cornwall, allude to that at Yealmpton; and it becomes necessary to enter into details respecting one in St. Clement's Churchyard, Truro, as it is probable the two persons whose memory they were intended to commemorate were nearly connected. The inscription on that in Truro, although abbreviated, would, if fully written, run as follows :—'Isniocus Vitalis Filius Torrici,' which Dr. Borlase thinks from the purity of the character to be one of the most ancient sepulchral Christian monuments in the country. In the capitals there is not the least deviation from the Roman letters, and it consequently follows in the opinion of these learned men that it was erected in the time of the Romans. Vitalis is actually a Roman name, although Isniocus is British. The import of the inscription is that it was erected to the memory of Isniocus Vitalis, son of Torricus. Vitalis, I have before remarked, is a Roman name, so likewise is Torricus. They are considered to have been Christians. Mr. Polwhele in his 'Historical View of Devon,' in alluding to the stone at Yealmpton, states that the meaning of the inscription is that Toreus or Torricus was the father of Vitalis, and adds 'That both were Christians may be inferred from the circumstance of their both being buried near spots consecrated to religious worship at a very early period, and which perhaps might have been established in both places on spots where heathen temples once stood. As the Romans left this country about 430 years after the birth of our Saviour, it appears probable that these stones must be at least 1,400 years old. As Vitalis' monument is the oldest in Cornwall, that of his father in Yealmpton most probably is coequal (? coeval), if not of greater antiquity. . . . It is evident that its antiquity must be very great. The stone lies in a direction S.E. and N.W., and it therefore follows that Toreus must have been laid in his solitary cell previous to the present custom of forming graves in a direction E. and W. being adopted. . . . There are two circumstances which bear strongly in favour of the near affinity of Toreus and Vitalis. The similarity of them certainly is the principal; next, the similitude of the monuments themselves and of their being both hewn from quarries of Cornish granite or moorstone. I believe no stones of this description, *i.e.*, moorstone, are found east of the Tamar. How, then, did the tomb of Toreus find its way to Yealmpton? . . . This fair conclusion I can draw, that both Toreus and his son were men of eminence, and perhaps each possessed lay domains near the respective spots where their remains were deposited, and that moorstone, from its durability over limestone in withstanding the encroachments of Time, was chosen, to hand down to posterity the names of these celebrated characters."

* The original letter is in the possession of Mr. James Cross, Torr, Yealmpton.

With regard to the position in which Dr. Bellamy found the stone lying, we fear no argument can be deduced as to its antiquity on that ground. It bears clear traces of having been put to secular use. On the back of it are three holes, which seem to show that it has done service as an upright post for a gate or stile.

The meaning or history of the inscription is an unsolved and, we fear, an insoluble mystery.

Our greatest antiquity had a very narrow escape from destruction on the night of February 26-27th, 1903. Two great elm trees which stood on the west side of the churchyard fell on either side of the stone. Several tombstones were smashed and the glass of the tower window was broken, but, although the stone was in the thick of the trees, it was absolutely unharmed.



CHAPTER XIV.

EXTRACTS FROM RELIEF OF THE POOR
ACCOUNTS.

1777.

| | |
|---|------------|
| To Jno. Marshall for shaving 4 Men in ye Poor House due Lady day 1777 | 4 - 0 |
| To 2 Women and a Horse to carry Jno. Crispin to Newton Ferrers he having the small Pox | 2 - 0 |
| To Killing the swine Hog | 2 - 0 |
| To '2 swine Hogs for the Poor House | 1 - 5 - 0 |
| To wool for Damaris Drake when she died | 1 - 0 |
| To the Minister for do. | 1 - 0 |
| To Francis Miller for the grave do. | 1 - 6 |
| To Liquor for the Funeral do. | 1 - 6 |
| To the Affidavit of—— do. | 6 |
| Samuel Crispin Everlasting for Breeches | 2 - 0 |
| To a coffin for Damaris Drake | 8 - 0 |
| To making a Cradle in the Poor House | 1 - 6 |
| To Timber and Nails for the Cradle | 2 - 3 |
| To putting Legs on a Bell-metal Skillet | 1 - 2 |
| By cash received for Spinning | 1 - 17 - 9 |
| To a year's Schooling for Peter Harvey due Midsummer 1778 | 6 - 0 |
| Summons on John Brooks for Land, Windows, and Poor Rates | 1 - 6 |
| To 2 Pigs Rings and mending the <i>Prang</i> | 3 |
| To Margaret Mitchell for watch- ing 3 nights, and 4 Days at- tendance and Laying forth James Lynn's wife | 4 - 6 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| To 2 men watching by Miriam Maberry 1 night in fits | 1 - 0 |
| To Cash Reced. for a Moiety of the penalty of £5 incurred by the Burial of Thomas Veale Esqr. in this Parish the 8th day of Febry. without an Affidavit being made in due time after his Interment that his Body was wrapt in Sheep's Wool only | 2 - 10 0 |
| To the Constable's Bill for executing a warrant against Stephen Chaffe for <i>clipping</i> from his Family | 17 - 6 |
| To 6 hoops on a Trundle | 1 - 3 |
| To Mending a Spinning Turn | 2 - 0 |
| To Liquor for the Poor in the House when sick | 1 - 0 |
| New Serger | 1 - 2 |
| Paid Daniel Nichols for a fat hog weight 296lbs at $3\frac{1}{2}$ pr lb. | 4 - 0 - 2 |
| paid Mr. Southwood for 9lb of mutton at $3\frac{3}{4}$ pr lb. | 2 - $9\frac{1}{2}$ |
| To 47lbs of Beef at 3d pr lb. | 11 - 9 |
| paid Arthur Symons for Curing the Pig | 2 - 4 |
| Paid Mary Budge for what <i>her lay</i> out | 7 - 9 |
| To Benjamin Tregillias to help him on his journey to London | 1 - 1 - 0 |
| To Cash pd Susanna Davis for Physical Stuff for her son Philip | 2 - 0 |
| To 3 little Books for the Poor Children | 1 - 6 |
| To Christopher Rearing for Curing the Itch in the House | 4 - 0 |
| To Deficiency on Gold belonging to the Parish | 8 - 3 |
| 1788. | |
| Paid for 4 Testaments for the Poor Children | 4 - 8 |
| Paid Agnes Southern for Cleaning Jane Shaffold | 3 - 0 |
| To a Grate for the Poor House | 1 - 1 - 0 |
| To 6 Bushels of Coal for do. | 9 - 0 |
| To Drawing home the Coals and Grate and Turnpikes | 6 - 0 |

| | | |
|-------|--|-------------|
| | To Cash advanced towards Curing Jno. Spark's Children Scald Heads | 12 - 0 |
| | Paid for Curing John Sparke's Children's Scald Heads | 1 - 11 - 6 |
| | To Beer for the Jurymen attend- ing the Inquest on the Body of Hugh Parsons | 4 - 8 |
| | To Sam Parsons to buy Powders for his Leg | 1 - 0 |
| | Paid (Mary Tregillas) for Stuff to cure the Barnigout on one of ye Children | 0 - 4 |
| | To 6 Reading made Easy for the Poor Children at School | 3 - 0 |
| | To Mary Tregillas for oil Bread &c for do to make a Paltist | 2 - 6 |
| | To D. for Milk Bread and oil to make Paltis for Prowse's Leg | 1 - 6 |
| | To D. for Bread to make Paltist and 3 Brooms | 2 - 9 |
| | Edm. Crispin for Tuition of 6 poor children 1 Qr due Mid- summer 1791 | 9 - 0 |
| | D. for Luke Parker's Boy to writing 1 Qr and Paper to D. | 3 - 0 |
| 1792. | Edm. Blatchford towards Christ- ning his 2 children | 5 - 0 |
| | The Minister Clark and Sexton for Christning Blatchford's Children | 2 - 0 |
| | Edm. Crispin for Tuition of Wm Barker to Arithmetic 1 Qr and paper | 4 - 6 |
| 1794. | Towards Luke Barker's Doctor's Bill in ye small Pox <i>in the natural way</i> | 3 - 3 - 0 |
| | Mr. William Anthony Surgeon for Inoculation of 83 Poor at 5s. 3d. per Head | 21 - 15 - 9 |
| | To the Constables Bill for carry- ing Wm. Toxer to Exeter | 1 - 2 - 0 |

CHAPTER XV.

THE CHURCH ENDOWMENT.

THE Exeter copy of Domesday contains the earliest mention we have of Glebe, and it is confirmed in less detail by the Exchequer copy. It says "The priests of the same township have one hide* of land. And they have therein three virgates and one plough-team in their demesne." This roughly corresponds to the Rectorial Glebe, some of which has been sold by, and some still is in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The endowment of the Vicarage was fixed by Bishop Bronescombe by an ordinance dated August 1st, 1270. After dealing with Kenton and Alvington, he proceeds:—"We order also for the Vicarage of the Church of Eal mintone that it consist of the whole of the *altalagium*† of the said Church and the Chapel of Revelstoke together with the glebe-house belonging thereto; so that the vicar for the time being shall sustain all the ordinary burdens, due and accustomed." This endowment appears in the form of £. s. d. in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., which was commenced in 1288 and completed in 1291.‡

The Church of King's Teynton with its Chapel (*i.e.* High Week)

| ANNUAL VALUE. | TENTHS. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| £18 15s. 5d. | £1 15s. 8d. |
| Vicarage of King's Teynton. | |

| ANNUAL VALUE. | TENTHS. |
|--------------------------|---------|
| £5. | 10s. |
| The Church of Yalumpton. | |

| ANNUAL VALUE. | TENTHS. |
|-----------------------|------------|
| £13 6s. d. | £1 6s. 8d. |
| Vicarage of the same. | |

| ANNUAL VALUE. | TENTHS. |
|---------------|---------|
| £5. | exempt. |

This was the standard Taxation for a long time afterwards, but in individual cases, the figures had to be revised from time to time, in consequence of the change in value of money, etc. Accordingly, when in 1339, the King required to be informed

* Maitland (*Domesday Book and beyond*) thinks a *hide* of land equals 120 acres of arable land, pasturage being common.

† *Altalagium* Whatever comes to the altar or church, both from cultivated lands, vineyards, meadows, subsidies, etc., as well as the daily offerings.

‡ Printed in Preb. Hingeston-Randolph's excellent edition of the "Episcopal Registers of Exeter—Bishops Bronescombe and Quivil."

as to the value of all Benefices held by aliens, he wanted to know the true value *then*. De Flisco, an alien who held the Benefices of King's Teynton and Yealmpton preferred the old figures of the Taxation of Nicholas IV., as meaning to him less to pay for Tenths than the real Tenths of the Prebend. Bp. Grandisson, of Exeter, therefore could only return to the King what was the standard Taxation, viz. for Yealmpton, £13 6s. 8d.* He reported that he had failed to ascertain the true value, but according to common report each "Ecclesia" was then worth £10 more (or £20 together).

In 1536 a new Taxation was made, Henry VIII having resolved to transfer the First-fruits and Tenths from the Pope's pocket to his own. In it we find the *then* values;—Vicarage of Yealmpton with Chapel of Revelstock (John Keytone [vicar]) Annual Value £35-19-4½: Tenths £3-11-11¼. These sums, being the amounts standing against Yealmpton in the Liber Regis have to be paid by the Vicar to Queen Anne's Bounty, as first-fruits on his Induction to the living, and the second as Tenths every year. In treatment of the endowment, a clear distinction should be drawn between the Rectory and the Vicarage of Yealmpton. The former, together with that of King's Teignton by appropriation belonged to a Prebend of Salisbury. The patronage will be found set forth at length under its own chapter.

In the Parliamentary Survey of Church Lands of 1649, preserved in Lambeth Palace Library, the following reference to the Rectory and Vicarage of Yealmpton occurs:—

"They say upon their oathes That in the parishes of Yalmpton and Revelstock, the Sheafe is impropriated, and is worth by the yeare one hundred and twentie poundes (To witt) Yalmpton fourescore poundes and Revelstock ffortie poundes. And that John Pollexfen of Holbeton in the Countie aforesaid Esquire is the present Proprietor by vertue of a Lease from ye prebend of the Cathedrall of Salisbury for divers yeares yet enduring. To which sheaf there is a mannor belonging of the yearly Rent of five poundes thirteene shillings and fourpence payable to the said Mr. Pollexfen, of which issues out to the said Prebend for one part of the said Sheafe and parcell of the Mannor lying in Yalmpton aforesaid the yearly rent of Twentie sixe poundes fourteene shillings and two pence. And out of ye Remainder of the said Sheafe and Mannor lying in the said parische of Revelstock thirteene poundes six shillings and sixpence. And that in ye said parishes there is a Vicaridge endowed, worth by the year two and fourtie pounds or thereabout (To witt) so much as is Conteyned or lying in the said parische of Yalmpton. The small Tithes are worth thirtie poundes, and ye small Tithes lying in the said parische of Revelstock twelve poundes."

* There is a clerical error of 5s. for 6s. in the return.

In 1856 by order of the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council, under the Pluralities Act, Revelstoke was made a separate parish. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners possessed Tithe Rent Charge in the parochial chapelry of Revelstoke to the value of £140. This they conveyed to the now separated parish of Revelstoke for its endowment. Order dated January 30th, 1856. Doubts, however, arose as to the proportion due to each Incumbent, and so another order was issued in the following June, by which the Vicar of Yealmpton received to and for his own use and benefit all the Tithe Rent-Charge and Glebe Land, Ecclesiastical fees, dues, and emoluments of the said Vicarage, exclusive of the Tithe Rent-Charge and Glebe Land, Ecclesiastical fees, dues, and emoluments situate and arising within the boundaries of the said chapelry or Benefice of Revelstoke. The converse to apply to Revelstoke. In the year 1871 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners annexed to the Benefice of Yealmpton certain land and buildings adjacent to the Parsonage House and comprising 3 roods, 16 poles, such annexation being in substitution for the annual charge of £10 previously paid by them to the Incumbent.



CHAPTER XVI.

THE PATRONAGE.

THE present patron of the living is the Bishop of Exeter, but it was not always so. We have been able in a previous Chapter to trace the History of Yealmpton back to at least Saxon times, and the clergy were here before the establishment of the See of Exeter (A.D. 1040). The Saxon Bishops were not Bishops of a definite territory, but of a race: and that race is found in different parts of the West. The West Saxons had Dorchester as the seat of their first Bishopric, and then Winchester. As they advanced Westwards the country they covered was, for ecclesiastical purposes, divided into two—Winchester and Sherborne (A.D. 705). Two hundred years later there were further divisions (A.D. 909), Exeter appearing last of all in A.D. 1040. This will account for the fact that for several centuries the connection of Yealmpton was closer with Salisbury than with Exeter. One writer says: "The Parochial Chapel of Yealmpton was given by William the Conqueror to the Chapter of St. Mary of old Sarum"; but the authority for the statement is as questionable as the authority for the gift. *When* the transference of the patronage from Salisbury to Exeter took place we have no evidence to show, but that it was prior to 1227 is clear from a Charter* of William Briwere, Bishop of Exeter. There we have a record of a request made by Richard Le Poore, Bishop of Sarum, to the Bishop of Exeter to cede to him King's Teignton and Yealmpton, with their respective Chapels, in exchange for Kenton and West Alvington. The entry is as follows:—

"Charter concerning the Constitution as a Prebend of the Church of Teignton, together with its Churches and Chapels and their appurtenances. We, William (Briwere), Bishop of Exeter, have ordered as follows:— that the Church of Teignton with the Chapel of Teignweek and the Church of Yealmton with its chapel, and with all the goods belonging to the said Churches and Chapels, shall henceforth be Prebendal; and the Bishops of Sarum, for the time being, shall, whenever they become vacant, collate to them in the future and for ever as Patrons thereof: provided that he who shall be collated to the aforesaid Prebend shall be instituted thereto by us and our successors, saving sufficient vicarages. The Churches, however, of Kenton and Affington (i.e., West Alvington) with their chapels and incomes and all goods whatsoever per-

*Bound up with Bp. Bronescombe's Register—the earliest Register at Exeter.

taining to them, shall be reserved for the perpetual use of the daily distribution amongst the Canons of the Church of Exeter, as a recompense for the manifold loss which our Church of Exeter sustains by the aforesaid concession."

It was alleged that the "provender" of the Prebend in the Church of Salisbury was very scanty, and would be much increased by this exchange, though to what extent it was impossible to say. However, the exchange was not to take place until the stall became vacant, and this did not occur till A.D. 1244, when Roger, the occupant of the Stall, and Precentor of the Cathedral, was advanced to be Bishop of Bath. The effect upon the living was that it was no longer a rectory but a vicarage, as it is to this day, and no alteration took place in its status when the patronage returned to the Bishop of Exeter. The rectorial tithes remained with the Prebendary of Salisbury, who had to find a vicar to take the cure of souls in this parish. He then presented him to the Bishop of Exeter, who, if he approved, admitted him, and gave him his letters of institution and induction in due course. In the registers of Bishop Grandisson the name of the patron is given with the name of the vicar appointed by him. (See list of vicars p. 17) The prebendary also, as rector, had to be officially inducted into the corporal possession of the great tithes, and for this purpose appeared in the Churches of King's Teignton and Yealmpton either in person or by his proctor. Sometimes the parishioners regarded such an induction as an intrusion, and gave to the prebendary or his proctor a reception too warm to be pleasant.

This patronage was still in existence during the commonwealth. The Parliamentary Surveys, preserved in the Library of Lambeth Palace state that the Tithes payable to the Rectory of Yalhampton belonged to the Cathedral Church of the Virgin Mary of Sarum, adding presumptuously "The Advowson, Right of patronage or presentation to the *Vicarage* of Yalhampton belongs to the state." This, of course, it never could be except by gross usurpation on the part of the State, or by unworthy surrender on the part of the Ecclesiastical patron. Thousands of incumbents gave up their livings rather than submit to such an outrage upon Church Law, or were driven out of them, as the "Sufferings of the Clergy" abundantly testify. We fear the Vicar of Yealmpton at that time was a "Vicar of Bray," for he held the Living from 1629 to 1661, *i.e.* during the greater part of the reign of Charles I., throughout the whole of the Commonwealth and the first year of Charles II. In other respects he appears to have been a very worthy man, and the pressure to provide all things that are requisite and necessary for a large family may have had much to do with his subserviency.

The present Patron is the Bishop of the Diocese, an exchange of Patronage having been effected about 1840.

CHAPTER XVII

THE MANOR OF YEALMPTON.

IN the County of Devonshire there were twelve Crown Lordships, of which Yealmpton was one. All these were in lay hands before the Norman Conquest, but a distinction is made between what belonged to Edward the Confessor and what belonged to the Church. The entry in Domesday Book is as follows:—

The King holds Elintona (Yealmpton). At the time of King Edward it was taxed for two hides and a half. There is land for twenty ploughs. In the domain are one plough and twenty serfs, and sixteen villeins and nine bordars, with twelve ploughs. There are there six acres of arable land and ten acres of pasture. There is a wood of three furlongs in length, and half a furlong in breadth. Its value is £12 10s. The clergy of the same town hold one hide, etc. (see under "Endowment").

If the hide be taken as 120 acres, the whole acreage of the Royal Manor was about 315 acres.

During the turbulent reign of Henry III. the revenues of the Crown were considerably diminished by tenants *in capite* alienating their holdings without licence, and by ecclesiastics, as well as laymen, withholding from the Crown, under various pretexts, its just rights. Numerous exactions and oppressions of the people had been committed also by the nobility and gentry claiming the rights of free chase, free warren, and fishery, and demanding extortionate tolls at fairs and markets. As soon as King Edward I. returned to England from the Holy Land, where news of the death of his father reached him, he appointed a special commission to inquire into these abuses, and its reports are preserved in the Hundred Rolls. The commission was appointed under the Great Seal, October 11th, 1274. The report on Yealmpton is as follows:—

The verdict of six jurymen concerning the manor of Yalmeton: Elyas de Welriggeton, John Latrun, Henry de la Stune, John de Driby, (Treby), Philip de Edmerestone, and Maurice Druncard, who say on their oath:—Concerning the domains and manors which the King holds in his own hand, they know nothing. Concerning the manors which are accustomed to be in the hands of the aforesaid King, and who hold them now, they say that they know nothing.

Concerning the fiefs of the Lord King and their tenants, they say that Matthew Fitz-John holds the aforesaid manor together with his other lands in England from the Lord King in chief by his barony, and his predecessors held the same of the predecessors of the Lord King from time immemorial. And the value of the aforesaid manors is £30 a year. The aforesaid Matthew holds the aforesaid manor on lease from Master Nicholas Fitz-Martin, made by purchase from the Lord Edmund, brother of the Lord King, and the same Lord Edmund had the same lease as a gift from the Lady Queen his mother. And the same Lady Queen as a gift from the Lord King Henry the father of the Lord Edmund.

As regards those who claim to have Royal Liberties, such as gallows, etc. They say that the lord of the said manor has gallows, assize of bread and ale, and view of frank-pledge, and his predecessors always had these liberties from time immemorial.* They say that in these domains of the aforesaid Matthew is a warren which Master Herbert, son of Matthew, uncle of the aforesaid Matthew, whose heir he is, obtained from the Lord King Henry, father of the Lord King, more than thirty-five years ago. (Hundred Rolls of Edward I.)

Of this family Risdon remarks: "The Manor of Yealmpton anciently appertained unto Matthew Fitz-Herbert, a noble soldier, who was one of the magnates or barons at the making of Magna Charta, and was also one of those potent noblemen for the King that made the accord between King John and the barons at Running-Mead: his son, called Herbert Fitz-Matthew, is the fourth baron that is mentioned in the roll of the Parliament at Tewkesbury. Matthew Fitz-John, the last of the family, lord of this manor, was called a baron to the Parliament in King Edward I.'s reign, whose only daughter was married to Sir Ralph Mounthermer, and the inheretrix of Thomas Mounthermer was wife unto John Mountacute, from which family this land descended unto the Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon." This summary we are able to amplify from the Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, and Lay Subsidies.

In 1287 Sir Matthew Fitz-John recognised the King's right to the manor of Yealmpton who granted it to him for life at the yearly rent of £40.†

*In 1281 the Jury of Assize of the County found that certain wreck, an empty *butt*, had come ashore at Yealmpton, and the profit (12d.) had been accounted for by the Sheriff of Devon. *Gallows*—power to condemn to death after trial: *assize of bread and ale*—authorization of the standard of quality: *view of frank-pledge*—power to manage and control the system by which the members of any tithing, consisting of ten households, were made responsible for each other, so that if any one of them committed an offence the other nine were bound to make reparation.

† Enrolment of Agreement made on Saturday next after the Ascension, 15 Edward I, between the King and Sir Matthew son of John, Knight, whereby the King grants to him (certain places mentioned). Matthew grants to the King and Queen the Manors of Yalhampton co. Devon (and other places)—Close Rolls, 1287, Membrane 5d, schedule, dorse.

Grant and Warranty by the King and Queen for life to Matthew son of John, in exchange for his recognition in the King's Court, of the King's right to the town and

In 1309 Eleanor, widow of Matthew Fitz-John succeeded to the manor of Yealmpton, of the yearly value of £55 4s. 6½d., the borough of Noss (100s. 2d.) and other places.* This Eleanor's only daughter was married to Sir Ralph de Monthermer and thus carried the manor, with other property, into that family on her death. Their son Thomas de Monthermer married Margaret, and on his death she was accepted as tenant of these several manors, of which Yealmpton was one, to hold them in dower. The orders were directed to John de Alveton, escheator in the County of Southampton, etc., and to Ralph de Middleney, escheator in the Counties of the South West.†

castle of Devizes, and the manor of Rudes., Erlestok, and Hakeleston co. Wilts., the manors Stok' in Hammes, *Yampton*, Hocford, La Sturte and Pyworthy, co. Devon, and the manors of Warblinton and Hunton co. Southampton—of the said town, castle and manors with their appurtenances, except the advowson of the Church of Rudes rendering yearly £40: also grant to the said Matthew, in accordance with a fine made between the King and the said Matthew, that the manors of Piworthy and La Sturte and a third-part of the manor of Hocford, co. Devon, and the manors of Warblinton and Hunton, co. Southampton, which Margaret, late the wife of John son of Matthew holds in dower shall remain for life to the said Matthew in the event of the said Margaret dying before him: also grant to the same that the manor of Hakeleston, co. Wilts. and the manor of Iwelgh co. Gloucester, which Walter Beck and Joan his wife hold as the free marriage of the said Joan, shall remain to the said Matthew likewise. Release by the said Matthew to the King of all right to the above Manors of Stok' in Hammes, *Yampton*, Hocford, La Sturte, and Pyworthy, co. Devon, and Erlestok, co. Wilts, and grant that the Manors of Pyworthy and La Sturte, the third part of the Manor of Hocford, co. Devon, the Manors of Worblinton and Hunton, co. Southampton, and Hekeleston, co. Wilts, and Iwelgh, co. Gloucester, shall remain to the King, on the death of the present tenants—Patent Rolls, Membrane 2, 1287, Oct. 32 (*sic*). 15 Edward I, Westminster, Matthew filius Johannis tenet in *Yadampton* ii. f.—Lay Subsidies 1303.

* To Walter de Gloucester, escheator this side Trent. Order to deliver to Eleanor, late the wife of Matthew son of John, the following of the said Matthew's lands whereof he enfeoffed the late King, who afterwards granted them to him for life: the manor of *Yampton*, co. Devon, of the yearly value of £55 4s. 6½d., the burgh of la Nasse, co. Devon, of the yearly value of 100s. 2d. (and other places mentioned)—Close Rolls, Membrane 21, Sept. 11th, 1309.

Enrolment of final concord made in the King's Court at Westminster, in three weeks from Michaelmas, 15 Edward I, before (certain justices) between Matthew, son of John, demandant, and the King and his consort Queen Eleanor, deforciant, of the town and castle of Devizes, the manors of Rudes and Erlestok, co. Wilts, the manors of Stok' in Hammes, *Yampton* (etc.), which the said Matthew acknowledged to be of the right of the said King and Queen, and for this recognition, the King and Queen granted them the premises and appurtenances, for his life at a yearly rent of £40.....

Enrolment of final concord made in the King's Court at Westminster, in the octaves of Michaelmas 15 Edward I, before the said Justices, between the King and Queen demandants, and Matthew, son of John, deforciant, of the manors of Stok' in Hammes, *Yampton* (etc.), which the said Matthew acknowledges to be their right, and he rendered them to them in Court—Close Rolls, Membrane 20 d, 1309.

Villa de *Yalympton* et Nasse, quod est membrum ad eandem. Dominus ejusdem, domina Alianora que fuit uxor Matthei, filii Johannis. Lay Subsidies, 1316.

[Translation:—Village of Yealmpton and Nasse, which belongs to the same. The lord of the same is mistress Eleanor who was wife of Matthew Fitz-John].

† To John de Alveton, escheator in eos. Southampton, Wilts, Oxford, Berks Bedford, and Bucks. Order to deliver to Margaret, late the wife of Thomas de Monte Hermerii, tenant in chief, the manors of Worblington and Hunton, to hold in dower, as the King has assigned to her the following tenements to hold in dower, to wit: the manor of Warblington, co. Southampton, extended at £23 17s. 2½d. yearly, manor of Hunton, same county, extended at £13 19s. 9½d. yearly, the manor of *Yalampton*, co. Devon, extended at £37 9s. 10d. yearly (etc.)

To Ralph de Middleney, escheator in eos. Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall. Like order to deliver to Margaret the said manors of *Yalampton* and Piworthy, which the King has assigned to her as aforesaid—Close Rolls, Membrane 17, August 28th, 1310.

To the same—Order to deliver to Margaret, late the wife of Thomas de Monte Hermerii, the following knight's fees which the King has assigned to her to hold in dower, to wit: three fees, except a tenth part of a fee, in Torrige, Little Molbury, Loperigg, Little Boltebury, and Wyndesore (Windsor in Yealmpton) in the same county, which Ralph le Rous holds, extended at £20 yearly, a fourth part of a fee in Cokklat (Cofflete, now in Brixton) in the same county, which Hugh de Hariston (Hareston) holds, extended at 10s yearly, a third part of a fee of Boghe-ton (Bowden in Yealmpton) in the same county, which James de Cokinton holds.—Ibid. Membrane 3, Nov. 30th.

Their daughter, also called Margaret, sole inheritress of her father, Thomas Monthermer, married John Montague (Monte Acuto), nephew of William de Monte Acuto who was created Earl of Salisbury in 1337.

Their son John, who was also heir of Margaret *suo jure* Barones Baroness de Monthermer, was summoned to Parliament as Lord de Monte Acuto, and on his uncle's death succeeded to the Earldom of Salisbury. In 1399, however, he entered into a conspiracy for the restoration of Richard II. The conspiracy failed, and he was captured and executed, his head being set on London Bridge. Being attainted, all his honours and possessions were forfeited. His wife, Matilda, however, who was related to the King, had some of his property restored to her, and this was continued to his son Thomas de Monte Acuto. In 1421 he was restored to all his father's dignities. The grant for life to Matilda is expressly stated to have been made for the maintenance of herself and infants.* He married (1) Elcanor, (2) Alice.† This Earl of Salisbury was killed by a cannon ball at the siege of Orleans, (1428), where he commanded the English forces. Such services would be included in the expression "free soecage" of the note below.‡

The Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV, by his marriage with the eldest daughter of the Earl of Warwick, the famous "King-maker," became brother-in-law to Lord Montacute. He had a daughter, Margaret, born 1474, and in the reign of Henry VIII., she was the only surviving heiress

Inquisicio eapta apud Plymptone, die Maii, proximo post festum Invenconis Sante Crucis, anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu Anglie xxii. eoram vicecomite Devonie, Jacobo de Cokynton, Thoma de Bath, et sociis suis, collectoribus auxilii domini regis ad primogenitum filium suum militem faciendum, per sacramentum (of twelve persons whose names are given). . . . Margareta Mohermer tenet in Yealmetone de rege in dotem duo feoda, quod Mathens filius Johannis tenuit. (Hugo Coffin tenet in Yanton dim f.) Lay Subsidies 1346. [Translation :—Inquisition taken at Plympton on the day of May next after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, in the year of the reign of King Edward the Third from the Conquest of England, before the Sheriff of Devon. James de Cokynton, Thomas de Bath, and their colleagues, collectors of the aid of the Lord King, for making his first-born son a soldier, by oath (of twelve persons whose names are given) . . . Margaret Mohermer holds in Yealampton of the King in dower two fees, which Matthew, son of John, held . . . Hugo Coffin holds in Yealampton half a fee.]

*Grant for life to the King's Kinswoman Matilda, late the wife of John de Monte Acuto, late Earl of Salisbury, in addition to a grant to her on 28th February last by letters patent of the manor of Yalhampton, co. Devon, to the value of £80 yearly, provided that she answer for any surplus.

Vacated by surrender and cancelled, because on 10th January in the third year the King granted to her for life the yearly surplus of £23 and 18s. from the said 28th February and 27th November respectively—Patent Rolls, Membrane 24, Nov. 27th, 1400.

†Grant for life to Matilda, late the wife of John, late Earl of Salisbury, in aid of the maintenance of herself and her infants, because the greater part of her inheritance had been alienated by the said Earl, of the manor of Stokenham, co. Devon (and other places)—Ibid. Membrane 35, Feb. 28th, 1400.

‡Licence for £20 paid in the hanaper for Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, and Alice, his wife, to enfeof Richard Alred and Andrew Sperlyng and their heirs in the manors of Stokenham and Yalhampton, co. Devon, held in chief, and for the said feepees, after seisin had, to re-enfeof the said Earl and Alice his wife, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Earl—Ibid. Membrane 43, May 20th, 1428.

§Comes Sarisburie tenet duas partes un. f. in Yealampton, quas tenet in libero socagio de rege, quod ab antiquo Matthias Southpole tenuit—Lay Subsidies, 1428.

[Translation :—The Earl of Salisbury holds two parts of one Knight's fee in Yealampton, which he holds in free soecage of the King, which of old Matthias Southpole held.]

of Edward Plantaganet, Earl of Warwick, Earl of Salisbury, etc. On her petition she was restored to the dignity of Countess of Salisbury with its possessions. Her youngest son was the celebrated Cardinal Pole, and for this and other reasons Henry VIII. became jealous of her influence. In 1539 she was attainted, but reprieved. Two years later, however, she was beheaded on Tower Hill, and all her honours were forfeited. In 1543 her eldest son, Lord Montacute, met a like fate. The Manor, after the attainder of the Countess of Salisbury was given as a dower by Henry VIII. to Queen Katherine Howard and then to Queen Katherine Parr.³ On her decease, a lease of the manor was granted to John Arscott or Askott in 1550, for thirty years.[†]

In 1554 the reversionary interest was granted to Francis Earl of Huntingdon and Lady Catherine his wife who was a kinswoman of Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, and in 1581 a special grant in fee was made to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon (on the expiration of Arscott's lease), and by him in 1583 the manor was sold to John Hele. From him it descended to his son Sir John Hele, whose only daughter, Jane, was married to Sir Henry Hungerford. The latter, having spent all his money in the Civil Wars, obtained power by Act of Parliament to sell his wife's property, and the manor was bought by John Pollexfen in 1669.

On the death of Edmund Bastard in 1710, his only surviving daughter, Anna, inherited the property, and she having been married to William Bastard of Gerston whom she survived, brought the property into that family which now holds it.

³ *Accedam Dominia et manoria Pyworthie, Stokenham, et Yalhampton cum pertinentibus, possessiones de Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, attainted.* Patent Rolls, 32 Henry VIII. Also Rentals, Roll 171. This is a Rent-roll of Queen Katherine's, dated 1548, and preserved in the Record Office.

[†] A letter to Mr. Channecellour of thaugmentacions to make a lease for xxx. yerres of the manour of Yelhampton in the countie of _ to Mr. Askott, reserving wood-sales and the accustomed rentes.—Acts of the Privy Council, 1550.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE REGISTERS.

THE Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, begin in 1600, and are complete up to the present time, with the exception of the following lacunæ:—

Baptisms, from 1624, October, to 1628.

Marriages, 1608-1628.

Burials, 1624, February, to 1629.

Births only (not Baptisms) are recorded from 1653, November, to 1660, February.

There are double entries of Marriages and Burials for about fifteen months, viz. 1710, April, to 1711, July, and a marriage is recorded between "Christnings for the years 1711 and 1712."

The "Collections" or "Briefs" already given (p. 19) are preserved in the Burials Register, sometimes mingled with the entries themselves, and sometimes on fly-leaves.

In the "Christnings" Register, after 1653 occurs the following note:—

Arthur Marwood being according to an Act of Parliament touching Marriages, Births and Burialls chosen to be Register for the parish of Yealmpton in the County of Devon, was the eighth day of December, one thousand six hundred fifty and three sworne and approved by us.
W. Savery,
Henr. Hatsen (?)

There is, of course, constant reference to the affidavits which, under the Act of 1679, had to be made that the deceased "Was buried in sheep's wool only." Strange to say, however, there is no record of these affidavits in the Registers till 1743, when John Laskey became Curate, *i.e.*, sixty years after the Act was made. These affidavits continue till 1807, by which time the law became obsolete. §

§ This Act was passed for the encouragement of the woollen manufactures, and prevention of the exportation of money for the importing of linen. It was therefore enacted that no corpse of any person should be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything whatsoever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver or any stuff or thing other than what is made of sheep's wool only, on pain of £5. The coffin was to be lined, if at all, with cloth made of sheep's wool only. Affidavits were to be made within eight days of the interment that this had been done. Pope alludes to the custom—

"Odions! in woollen! 'twould a saint provoke,"
Were the last words that poor Narcissa spoke.
"No, let the charming chintz, and Brussels lace
Wrap my cold limbs, and shade my lifeless face."

The Registers contain a memorandum of "An Act for granting his Majesty a duty of threepence on the Registration of Christenings (*which*) commenced ye 1st of October 1783." The same for Burials, "parish buryings excepted." Consequently we find "p.b." added to some burial entries. Also "soldier's child exempt from duty." "The Duty of threepence on the registering of *Burials* was taken off October 1st (1794), but there is no record as to when that on Baptisms was withdrawn.

About this time the curate has annotated the Register with remarks upon the characters or causes of death of his parishioners, *e.g.*,

"as good a man as ever lived or died."

"the best of wives and mothers."

"an amiable young man."

"killed by ye accidental throwing of a Stone by a person as she went to the River for water."

(two men) "suffocated together in Torr Kiln."

"killed by the Mail Coach."

"died of the leprosy."

"a private in the first Devon Militia hung himself in Bowden Orchard."

In 1800 from June 8 to July 9 nine persons were buried "having died of an Inflammatory *sic* fever," and in 1849, ten died in three months (July-September) from cholera.



CHAPTER XIX.

THE ANTHONY CHARITY.

THE testator was Charles Anthony, youngest son of William and Mary Anthony, of Yealmpton, who was born 28th November, 1792. His father practised as a surgeon for nearly half-a-century in Yealmpton, and Charles followed the same profession. The Trust Deed is very verbose and takes about an hour and a half to read; it bears the date 20 July, 1857, with a codicil dated 10th Sept. of the same year. Mr. Charles Anthony died 24th April, 1863.

The following are the most important parts of the Deed:—

“When in early youth from observing the wants and privations of many of the Poor, and the same feeling of commiseration being strengthened and fully born out during my Pupilage and Education under my Father, who practiced as a Surgeon at Yealmpton for more than half-a-century, I there formed a resolution and determined intention, if it pleased Almighty God to grant me prosperity and Health to accomplish my wishes, To devote and leave some provision for the Aged Poor in the shape of Comforts, such as Warm Clothing, Fuel, and a few necessities of life *when on a bed of sickness*, such as are not to be obtained by the too scanty provision of the Parish Authorities.”

He therefore invested such a sum of money in the Funds as would produce a clear Annuity of £30, free from all deductions for ever (save and except any casual tax laid on by the Crown, or in the renewal of Trustees in case of death). The sum so invested was £1100. The interest derived from £1000 of this sum was to be devoted entirely to the use and benefit of the Poor, as follows:

“First, ten pounds, for Cloathing and Bedding. Secondly, ten pounds for Coal or Wood. Thirdly, ten pounds *in case of actual sickness*.” “All above sixty years of age shall be the first to be considered and provided for, in the distribution of any surplus money, which may remain of the sick fund; and next in consideration are those with the largest Families, who are to be relieved principally with bread, and no money is to be given and I especially wish and direct the Trustees to relieve the honest and industrious and deserving Poor to the intire exclusion of all bad Characters as are described in Clause No. 10.”

The £3 derived from the remaining £100, was to be disposed of as follows:—

First, that the Vicar or his Curate shall receive £1 for his trouble in giving a Morning Service on every 28th November, and rendering other essential assistance to the Charity. Secondly, £1 shall be given to six of the oldest ringers in sums of 3 4 each for giving their time, labour and assistance to their feeble helpless neighbours and as otherwise directed. Thirdly, £1 is provided to replace books and pay other items of casual expenses as they may arise."

Clause 1.—The benefits of the Charity to be confined to parishioners, and not to extend to anyone beyond half-a-mile of the parish boundary. None under sixty to participate, "Except in a very marked and peculiar case, when the age of fifty may be admitted."

Clause 2.—Description of garments to be purchased. "And if it be discovered that any one recipient . . . shall sell or pawn the gifts of Cloathing or Bedding, he, or she, shall be excluded all future benefit."

Clause 3.—Directions as to quantity of coal or wood for each person.

Clause 4.—Description of provisions to be given. "The articles so distributed to each person if unmarried, or to a family, are not to exceed in the whole amount 5/-." The residue, if any, to be distributed to those most in need, between the 1st December and the last day of February. "Taking care . . . so that the Poor Law Board, the Parish Overseer or Guardian may not make a handle of it, in order to withhold the starving pittance which the law allows, in many instances barely enough to keep body and soul together, and I further direct that no Overseer or Guardian or other Parish Officer be ever allowed to interfere with the distribution of the gifts belonging to this Charity."

Clause 5.—The bedding to be marked Y. C. or C. A.

Clause 6.—Articles to be of good and substantial quality (not heap for cheap).

Clause 7.—Trustees to be co-opted, "but I forbid any future Trustee being ever elected to this Charity who holds the Roman Catholic Faith."

Clause 8.—Directions as to drawing the dividends from the Bank. Precautionary measures to prevent fraud and imposition. "I request there may be no distinction made . . . on any religious or sectarian grounds."

Clause 9.—"The Vicar or his Curate of Yealmpton Parish shall on every 28th day of November give a morning prayer service being the day which I now appoint for the distribution of the Coal, Cloathing, and Bedding Tickets; and I do request and desire that one and all who have health and strength to do so and are to

benefit by this Charity will attend at the Church at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to offer up their prayers and thanksgiving to Almighty God for all His great and many mercies vouchsafed to them. It is to God alone they must feel grateful gratitude and thankfulness in raising up a friend . . . The Vicar or his Curate to assist in the management of the Charity. . . Six of the oldest ringers shall, between 8 and 9 a.m., ring one peal to announce the day. . . and also to chime the bells for the Morning Service between 10 and 11 a.m. "They shall also render their more feeble and helpless neighbours their best assistance in taking home their coal or wood . . . for which labour and assistance they shall each receive 3s. 4d. . . and shall be paid by the Vicar four days before Christmas Day, to enable them to purchase their dinner for that particular day, but if either of them is found to spend the money at the publick house or in drink, he shall be disqualified in all future years from this privilege, and another next in age shall be nominated to take his place."

Clause 10.—The third £ to be spent in casual expenses. "Finally I wish it to be made known to the poor of the parish, that this Charity is intended only for the aged, honest, and deserving poor, to the exclusion of the habitual drunkard, those of an immoral character, with all thieves, poachers, garden and orchard plunderers."

Codicil.—£1000 to be invested in 3 p.c. Consols to provide the sum of £30 per annum, of which £20 was to be laid out "in providing for six needy poor old men whose ages are above 60, and whose moral and religious characters are good, and are of careful and industrious habits, a full suit of cloathes . . . the cloth to be a dark blue colour, and the quality warm and sufficiently good to last them three years." The remaining £10 was to be expended in providing for as many poor women whose ages are above 60, and whose moral and religious characters are good, and are careful cleanly persons, a warm brown or blue stuff gown and a warm woollen shawl, but no other article of dress whatever, and I leave it entirely with my Trustees to decide how frequent any or each of the recipients may receive either a new gown or shawl.

£1,000 to be invested in 3 p.c. Consols to provide Clothing for the children of the poor. "I further direct my said Trustees and their successors for ever to elect and place at School 15 boys and 15 girls, and provide all the children with the necessary and proper books as may be required, the boys to be taught reading writing and arithmetic, the girls to be taught the same with plain needle work and knitting. All the children

so sent to School are to be brought up and educated in the tenets and principles of the Church of England; and if possible, to bind the parents to keep the children at school at least six years. . . . I therefore request that the boys shall be provided with a Coat and Waistcoat of blue Cloth, of a fair and good quality for children, and also a cap to be chosen by the Trustees, and if the fund will extend to providing them with trousers also I wish it to be done. The girls are to be provided with a frock of good blue stuff with a tippet or cape to cover the shoulders, and each child to be supplied with a straw Bonnet and tied with blue riband, and my Trustees shall be at liberty to make any slight change in these general instructions. . . . I also give to the Trustees of the Plymouth Eye Infirmary £200 to be invested for the purpose of providing a perpetual annual subscription from me of £5 in order to provide assistance free from all charges to the poor of Yealmpton in all cases of injury to the eyes by accident, and in all other diseases of whatever nature incident to those organs." Free Tickets to be remitted from the said Infirmary to the Vicar of Yealmpton.

NOTE.—There was also a sum of £500 for the British and Foreign Bible Society, "to secure for ever a supply of Bibles, Church Prayer-books, and Sacrament or Communion Books." Twenty of each were to be sent to the Vicar every year, and were "to be of good bold print that the aged may be able to read when sight becomes impaired." As, however, the Society prints and circulates Bibles exclusively, it was unable to accept the legacy.



CHAPTER XX.

THE CAVES.

IN 1834 two caves were discovered at Yealmpton during the working of the Limestone Quarries in the woods west of the village. Certain animal remains were found in the first, but unfortunately were thrown away and lost. The second is the cave which from being beautifully decorated with stalactites and stalagmites, is preserved from injury. By order of the proprietor, a path was dug through the stalagmite and other substances which compose the floor, when bones of a large animal were discovered, and one at least, supposed to be a lion's tooth, remains *in situ* embedded in rock. Mr. Bellamy, from whose papers published in the *Devon Transactions*, these particulars are taken, says:—"Among the pebbles and rubbish of the Kitley Cave, I found an hyæna's tooth and a fragment of the head of a hare or rabbit; there is also a bone of some quadruped firmly fixed among the diluvial pebbles in that part of the cavern, which seems to have been choked up with these bodies."

The same writer thus describes the caves at Yealmbridge:—"About three years ago, the men employed in working the rock (at Yealmbridge Quarry) exposed a narrow fissure in its substance, which took a nearly horizontal direction; they had been ordered to blow the rock in the same course as this cavity pursued, and from the moment it was first opened to the present time, when it is no longer traceable (excepting a small arm of it which passes under the cart road), bones of various sizes and shapes presented themselves continually to view; so that from the account which I have received, the quantity contained must have exceeded three cart loads. . . . These bones were disposed of as rubbish. . . . The bones were enveloped in clay and a very rich black mould. Pebbles such as are found by the sea or in rivers occurred at intervals, as did the breccia or hard masses. Generally the bones were in fragments and splinters; many of them appearing to have been broken by the teeth of some predatory beast, and some are undoubtedly marked by these. . . . It appears that two or three skulls of the hyæna, in good preservation, were turned out some time back and lost. . . . There appears no reason to doubt, from the circumstance to be noticed presently, that the proportion of carnivorous animals greatly exceeded the herbivorous and other creatures here entombed; for, while it


was difficult to collect the teeth of the ox, horse and rhinoceros, as many as seven dozen of canine teeth of the hyæna were extracted from the clay in the before-mentioned remnant of the cave . . . We exposed the clay and black mould containing, at uncertain intervals, bones and teeth of the following animals:—rhinoceros, horse, ox, hyæna, wolf, fox, sheep, rabbit or hare, and polecat, or animal of that size and kind . . . The Cave at Yealmbridge I found to contain a set of relics not inferior as to number of species to that examined by Professor Buckland, at Kirkdale . . . I have found it a most interesting circumstance to trace the resemblance of the facts displayed by my newly-discovered cave to those offered by the cave at Kirkdale, and must here observe that they are strangely correspondent. Perhaps, however, one difference should be noted, namely, the probability that more than one predatory animal appropriated our cave as a place of habitual resort . . . Southern Devonshire in the immediately preceding epoch to the "Great Deluge" harboured a race of ravenous quadrupeds which preyed on another race of the harmless or herbivorous kind."

The remains, as described by Colonel Mudge writing in 1836, cover a wider range than those stated in the list above. On the authority of Mr. Clift and Mr. Owen, he says: "They belong to the elephant, rhinoceros, horse, ox, sheep, hyæna, dog, wolf, fox, bear, hare, water rat, and a bird of considerable size . . . Of the elephant only two teeth of a young animal have been preserved, and the remains of the rhinoceros are also rare, being confined to teeth and a doubtful bone, but those of the hyæna, particularly teeth, exceed in quantity all the bones of the other animals. Teeth and bones of the horse and ox are very abundant, but the remains of the bear are confined to teeth . . . In one part, where the roof is a little lower than usual, the limestone is beautifully polished as if by the friction of the animals which inhabited the cave."

The Kitley Caves are now preserved under lock and key, and can only be explored by special permission of the owner. On one occasion, when the caves were thrown open to the public at a small charge, in aid of the funds of the Yealmpton Rifle Club, a gentleman wired to a friend in the next parish: "Yealmpton Caverns now open. Come at once." The message was delivered in this form: "Yealmpton Taverns now open. Come at once." He came with haste, and, it is said, solved the doubt by visiting both.

CHAPTER XXI.

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEYS (Vol. v. p. 75)

URVEY of the Manorial Lands, Tenements, and Heriditaments commonly called or known by the names of Preston als (alias) Prestowne, lying and beinge in the parish of Kingstenton, in the County of Devon. And also all ye Manorial Lands, Tenements, and Heriditaments commonlye called or known by the name of Church Lands, lying and beinge in the parish of Yalmeton or Yalhampton, together with the Rectory and parsonage of Kingstenton and Yalhampton in the county aforesaid. Late parcellls of the possession or late belonging to the Cathedral Church of the Virgin Mary of Sarum, made and taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed in the moneth of Septembr, 1649, By virtue of Commission to us granted and grounded upon an Act of ye Commons of England assembled in Parliament, etc.

The Tithes arisinge and growinge due to Rectorye out of all manner of ground in Kingstenton and Hamlett of Higheweeke part of the said parish in perpetuum. The Advowson right of parsonage or presentation to the Vicaridge of Kingstenton and Hamlett of Highweeke, part of the said parish, is per ann. cxxl

The Advowson right of parsonage or presentacon to the viccaridge of Kingstenton belongeth to the State. The viccaridge there is worth per ann. cl

No incumbent there.

The Tithes payable to the Rectorie of Yalhampton of all graines growinge within the parish of Yalhampton, weh parish consists of these Titheings, viz., The Titheinge of Yalhampton, The Titheinge of Ravelstoke, The Titheinge of Cofleet, The Titheinge of Lincham, The Titheinge of Dunstone, The Titheinge of Pitton, The Titheinge of Church Lane is per ann. ccxxl

All weh premisses amongst other things, That is to saye All that ye prebend, parsonage, and Benefice of Tenton and Yalhampton, als Kingstenton and Yalhampton, together with all manner of Tithes, Oblations, Lands, Tenaments, Rents, and Services, with all Proflitts, Commodityes, and Emoluments to the said prebend and parsonage in any wise appertaininge or belonginge, (the flines of the Tennants, Herriottts, wares, marriages, Reliefs, makeinge of Stewards, keepinge of Courts,

admittinge and discharginge of Tennants, and all other Royalties there, All manner of woods, as well Timber as other woods, to the said parsonage and prebend belonginge or appertayninge. Advousons of Vicaridges of the two Churches, with the mansion places of the said prebend to the then prebendary and successors alwaies reserved and excepted, were by Indenture dated 10th December, 4 Edwardi Sexti, Demised by Mr. John Oliver, Doctor of ye Lawes, prebendarye of the Cathedral Church of Sarum and parson of Kingstenton and Yalhampton in the county of Devon, unto John Pollexfen, of Yalhampton, aforesaid, yeoman, Habendum (except before excepted) to the said John Pollexfen and his assignes for and duringe the Terme of nintye nine yeures, to comence and begin at the expiration of two former Leases, the first whereof was made by Mr. Stephen Gardner to Richard Snowe of London, gent, for the Terme of 31 years from the 4th of March 22. Henerici octavi, and the other was made by the aforesaid Mr. John Oliver to the said John Pollexfen bearinge date 1 Junii, 3 Edwardi Sexti, for the terme of 31 yeares after the expiration of the former Lease made by Mr. Stephen Gardner to Richard Snow aforesaid.

Reddendo to the said John Oliver and his Successors the yearley Rent of one hundred marks at the ffeastes of the Invencion of the holy Crosse and all Saints

| | lb | s. | d. |
|--|-----|-------|------|
| Redd[itus] | xvi | xiii. | iiii |
| or within one moneth after by even porecons. | | | |
| But are worth upon Improvements over | | | |
| and above the said Rent as before | | | |
| appeares pr Ann | ccc | xiii | |

Thus aporecond, viz.

| | | | |
|--|----|------|------|
| o be sold with the Rents of Assize and the | | | |
| Barnes | 03 | - 03 | - 04 |
| To remayne upon Tithes | 63 | - 10 | - 00 |
| | 66 | - 13 | - 04 |

Dec. 5th. Will Webb.

1650.

A Covenant on the behalfe of the Lessor to beare and pay all manner of ordinary or extraordinary Charges Due and to be Due, and growinge out of the premisses, to our Sovereigne Lorde ye Kinge and ordinary of the Diocese and all other parsons durence the Terme.

A Covenant on the behalfe of the Lessee to repair the premisses and the Barnes where they put their corn and hay. If the said Rent be behind after either of the said dayes of payment, then to enter and distrayne, and to distress, carrie awaye, and keepe till the same rent be paid, and if it bee behinde one moneth, then to re-enter and repossess.

There remayneth of the aforesaid terme unexpired from the 4th of March, 1649, 42 years. The remainder of the Terme on the present possession we finde to bee in Mr.— Pollexfinie of Muddycombe in Comit [atu], Devon [ie]. The Advouson, Right of patronage or prentacon [presentation] to the Viccarige of Yalhampton belongs to the State. The Viccaridge there is worth per ann. £— out of which the Curie of Revelstocke being foure miles distant from Yalhampton, is to be provided for. The present Incumbent and Viccar there is Mr. John Sheppard.

Mrs. Elizabeth Crocker, a ffreeholder of the said manor payeth for Lands lyinge within the said manor yearly at michas (michaelmas) and Lady daye, xx, s. *

Memorand[um:] John Hunt, Esq., and John Cole, by Indenture of Lease beareinge date the 13th day of January, in the 12th yeare of the late Kinge Charles, graunted by Samuel Proctor, prebendarye of the prebend of Teynton Regis Holde all that the manors, Landes, Tenements, and Hereditaments called or knowen by the names of Preston als Pres-towne, Lyinge and Beinge in the parish of Kingstenton, in the Countye of Devon, and also all the manors, Landes, Tenements and Hereditaments commonly called or knowen by the name of Church Lands als the parson's Lands yett Lyinge and beinge in the parish of Yalmeton als Yalhampton, in the said County of Devon, with all and singular the Appartenances (except the Lands, Tythes, Rents and Heriditaments heretofore demised or graunted bye one of the late prebends to John Pollexfen).

Redd[-itus] £viii.
This whole
rent must
be found (?)
in possession

for one and twenty years from the
Rent under the reserved yearly rent
of Eight *pounds* payable at Ladye
Daye and Michas [Michaelmas]

£ s. d.

And 3 - 4 - 8 as a Reversion after the Leases Terme, and the same Cleere improvements in both mannors of the Cppyholds as a reversion of such an Estate as the Lessee may graunt at any time during his said Termes.

Dec. 5. Will. Webb, 1650.

Which said Lease by meane Conveyance is come into ye possession of Daniel Procter and Henry Procter, who are now the immediate Tenants.

An abstract of the present Rents, future Improvements, and all other proflitts of the said mannor of Preston and Church Lands and of the Rectoryes of Kingstenton and Yalhampton.

*A chief-rent of 18s. 6d. is payable to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners upon the Lyncham Aisle. The Commissioners admit that such a rent is absolutely without parallel in any Church with which they have to deal. Possibly some connection may eventually be traced between these two sums.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----------------|--------------|----|
| The reserved Rents upon the said Rectories and mannor payable by the Lessee is per ann. | 62 | 13 | 4 |
| The Rent of Assize or the Rents of the Copyhold Tenements of the mannor of Preston, together with all other proffitts and perquisits with the said mannor to the Royalty thereof, and now in graunt and received by the Lessees is per ann. | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| The Rent of Assize or the Rent of the mannor of Church Lands, and now in graunt and received by the Lessor, is per ann. | 6 | 18 | |
| The Improved value of the Rectory of Kingstenton is per ann. | 129 | 1 | 4 |
| The Improved value of the Rectorye of Yalhampton is per ann. | 220 | | |
| So that the Improved value of both the said Rectorys, over and above the said Yearly Rent, is per ann. | 300 | 14 | 5 |
| The Improvements of the Coppyhold Lands of ye mannor of Preston, over and above the Rent of Assize for the said mannor, is per ann. | 206 | | |
| The Improvements of the Coppyhold Lands of ye mannor of Church Lands, over and above the Rent of Assize for the said mannor, is per ann. | 47 | 6 | 8 |
| Sume Totall of Future Improvements | 554 | 1 | 1 |
| Returned amongst other things to the Registers office for Keepinge ye Surveys for Deanes and Chapters Lands, the 19th October, 1649, by Walter ffoye | | | |
| En ^d Hall | John Squibb | } Surveyors. | |
| Regis Dept | Chr. Weare | | |
| | George ffairby | | |

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEYS (Vol. v., p. 150 [156])

An Inquisicon Indented taken at Plimpton in the said County of Devon ye foure and Twentieth day of October, Anno Domini One thousand sixe hundred and fiftie. Before Philip Crocker, Chrofer (Christopher) Martyn, Phillip ffrances, William Woollacombe, Nicholas Rowe, Walter Sterte and Richard Pearse, Esquire. By virtue of a Comission under the great Seale of England hereunto annexed unto them and others directed by the oathes of Sweete of Modbury, gent., Thomas Pearse of Ermington, John Pearse of the same,

John Andrew of the same, Henry Cliffe of the same, Leonard fforde of Ughborough, John fforde of the same, gent., John Lavers of Cornwood, Richard Turpyn of the same, Richard Pearse of Yealmpton, John Pearse of the same, Richard Avent of Brixton, Nathaniel Ryder of Wembury, gent., John Jetsham of Shawe, Daniel Slade of Yealmpton, and Henry Holbeton of Revelstock (p. 159 [165]).

Item, they say upon their oathes That in the p(ar)ishes of Yalmpton and Revelstock the Sheafe is impropriated, and is worth by the yeare one hundred and twentie poundes (To witt) Yalmpton fourscore poundes and Revelstock ffortie poundes, and that John Pollexfen of Holbeton in the Countie aforesaid, Esquire, is the present Proprietor by vertue of a Lease from ye prebend of the Cathedrall of Salisbury for divers yeares yet enduring. To which sheafe there is a mannor belonginge of the yearely Rent of five pounds thirteene shillings and fourpence, payable to the said Mr. Pollexfen, of which issues out to the said Prebend, for one part of the said Sheafe and parcell of the Mannor lying in Yalmpton aforesaid, the yearely rent of Twentie sixe poundes fourteene shillings and two pence. And out of ye Remainder of the said Sheafe and Mannor lying in the said parishe of Revelstock thirteen pounds six shillings and sixe pence, and that in ye said parishes there is a vicaridge endowed, worth by the year two and fourtie pounds or thereabout (To witt) so much as is Conteyned or lying in the said parishe of Yealmpton. The small Tithes are worth thirtie poundes. And ye small Tithes lying in the said parishe of Revelstock twelve poundes. And that the present Incumbent or Vicar there is Mr. John Shepheard who hath Curam Ecclesiarum of both parishes, and placed in them by the said Prebend of Salisbury, to whom there is allowed for Salary the small Tithes of both parishes. That he is a painefull minister and officiates both Cures, the one in the forenoone and the other in the afternoone, everie Lord's Day although the Churches are foure myles distant. And further they say that they think it fitte that Torre, Puslinch, Creber, Aishcomb, Blowdon, and Lolesbury should be united to Yeampton, their adjacent parish and taken off from Newton fferyers. And that the parishes of Revelstoke and Membland, Alston, Lamb-side, Prestone, and Bridgend, being part of the parish of Holbeton, should be united to Newton fferyers.

(In the Survey of Brixton they reported "And further they say they think it fitte that that parte of Yalmpton wch is called Cofflett should be united to Brixton their adjacent parishe.")

CHAPTER XXII

INTER ALIA.

1284-1286. **R**ADULFUS de Linham tenet Linham cum decenna de decano et capitulo Sarisburie pro viginti solidis annuis per annum; et idem decanus et capitulum de Matheo filio Johannis de rege, etc.

(*Translation.*—Ralph of Lineham holds Lineham, with the tithe, from the dean and chapter of Salisbury for 20s. per annum, and the said dean and chapter from Matthew Fitz-John and he of the King, etc.)

Johannes de Ayslegh et Alianora uxor ejus tenent Colaflete cum decennis per servicium quarte partis i. f. de Matheo filio Johannis et idem Matheus de rege, etc.

(*Translation.*—John of Aysheleigh and Eleanor his wife hold Cofflete with the tithes by service of a fourth part of one fee from Matthew Fitz-John, and the said Matthew of the King, etc.)

1302.—Westminster. Appointment of Peter de Donewyes, the King's Clerk, to act in conjunction with the sheriffs of (among other counties) Devon, to induce the bailiffs and good men of the following towns . . . to send ships furnished with men and necessaries to Newtown, in aid of the Scotch expedition so as to be there by the feast of the Ascension, ready to set forth against the Scots at the King's wages, to wit . . . Plymouth, Plumpton, and Yalm, one ship. They are to take security from them that they will send the ships. Writ of aid for the said Peter directed to the said Sheriffs (Calendar of Patent Rolls, Nov. 10.)

1306.—Commission of Oyer and Terminer to Henry Spigurnel, Roger de Bella Fago, and Thomas de la Hyde, on complaint by William le Poer, coroner in the islands of Sullye, belonging to the county of Cornwall, that whereas he went to le Val and Treskau in those islands to enquire touching homicides, etc., Raulph de Albo Monasterio, Michael Petit, Edmond Speccote, John Gabbere, Robert Abbot of Tavystok, brother John de Yalmcton, brother John de Exonia, and Oliver de Sullye, chaplain, caused him to be imprisoned by persons unknown at le Val, until he made fine with them of

100s., and that, whereas the said Ranulph holds the castle of Evor in the island of Sullye by the service of finding and maintaining twelve men at arms there to keep the peace, he does not find them, but receives felons and thieves, whereby the coroner and his bailiffs are prevented from entering those islands and exercising their office. (Calendar of Patent Rolls, Nov. 24).

- 1325.—Beaulieu, Membrane 7d. To the bailiffs and community of Yalhampton under Newton Ferers. Order to cause proclamation to be made forbidding anyone inflicting damage, wrong, or annoyance, by land or by sea, upon the men of Flanders, merchants or others, under pain of forfeiture, and that all persons of this realm shall treat favourably the said men coming into this realm with their goods and merchandise. (Calendar of Patent Rolls, April 15).

(This was renewed, and extended to merchants of Spain, Catalonia, Lombardy, Aquitaine, and other places beyond in the King's *friendship*—1338, Membrane 41d.)

- 1325 Dec. 12.—To the bailiffs of Yalhampton under Newton Ferers. Order to cause all and singular entering the port or wishing to leave the same for parts beyond sea, to be diligently searched, and to arrest any whom they shall find with letters prejudicial to the King or the rights of his crown, or suspicious letters, and to cause such persons to be sent to the King with the letters in question, so that he may cause to be done in that matter what shall seem reasonable, the King having frequently ordered them to cause such search to be made, and they have been negligent in doing so, by the fact that many such letters have been afterwards brought into that realm by that port (*ibid.*)

- 1326 Feb. 5.—Order to cause diligent search to be made in the port of Yalhampton under Newton Ferers, so that no one shall take or send out of the realm horses, armour, gold, silver, in mass or money by toll, except merchants. If they find anyone taking or sending such horses, armour, gold, (or) silver they are to arrest such horses, armour, gold, (and) silver, and to cause the same to be kept safely until further orders, certifying the King in Chancery of the names of those carrying or sending such things out of the realm and of the value of the things arrested, and of all their proceedings in this matter from time to time (*ibid.*)

1326. John de Bello Campo of Somerset, Robert Fitz-Payn, Geoffery de Hanteyll, and John de Chideock were appointed to survey the ships of over 50 tons in certain ports (of which Yalhampton was one), and to see that they joined Nicholas Kiriell, admiral of the western fleet

at Portsmouth, and that all the lords and masters of the ships of less tonnage are kept in the same towns, and they are to arrest such as have not joined both ships and men (*ibid.* Aug. 15, Membrane 21.)

1328. Order to Yalhampton under Newenten Ferers, to enjoin all owners (dominos) and masters of ships to cause under pain of forfeiture, all their ships of the burthen (portantes) of forty tuns and upwards that are now outside their ports to be brought back to the ports with all speed, and to cause them and all other ships in those ports to be well and sufficiently provided with men, victuals, arms, and other necessities, so that they be ready with others of the King's subjects for the defence of the mayor and bailiff and the neighbouring ports in case the malefactors from ports beyond sea now assembled on the coasts of Normandy and Britan happen to come to those ports (*ibid.* June 28, Membrane 22 d.)

In the fleet of 1,100 ships raised in the reign of Edward III, were two provided by Yealmpton with 47 mariners (Polwhele, ch. iv., sec. i).

- 1330 (1331) Received at Chudleigh 3 March. Tested by J. de Stonore 23 Jan., venire faciatis Ligerum (de Londone), vicarium ecclesie de Yalemptone . . . ad respondendum Hugoni de Harestone de Placito quare secutus est Placitum in Curia Christianitatis, etc. Return—His good had been sequestrated (Bishop's Register).

- 1331.—Order not to admit any earls, barons, knights, or other men at arms to ports beyond sea, or to take destrier-horses or arms to the said ports without the King's special license, and to arrest and imprison until further orders all found doing so (Calendar of Patent Rolls, Oct. 16, Membrane 13 d.)

- 1347.—To the Collectors in the ports of Devon and Cornwall (of which Yalm- *i.e.* Yealm Mouth is one) of the subsidy of 2s. the sack of wool, and 6d. the pound. Order to permit Edward, Prince of Wales, and Tidemannus Lymbergh, his attorney, to take their tin so taken out of those ports, by sea or land, quit of the said subsidy of 6d. the pound; restoring to the prince, or to his said attorney, anything which they have received from them for tin so taken out of the realm from August 4 last, as all the tin in Co. Devon and Cornwall is and has long been in the prince's hand, and he has made divers loans and other provisions thereupon for the necessary expenses of the wars of France, where he has made continued stay for a year and more, for which he cannot conveniently be satisfied if he is charged with the said subsidy; and the

- King does not wish such provisions and loans to be impeded, especially as the ships taking the tin out of the realm go at the King's cost (*ibid.* Sept. 10, Membrane 18).
- 1384.—A Commission was granted in June (no day mentioned) to Sir William Clyftone, Vicar of Stokenham, and David Lantrome, to administer the effects of Sir W. Yurl, or Erle, Vicar of Yealmpton, he having died intestate, as was alleged, leaving property at Exeter and elsewhere in the Diocese. If a will should be found, they were to give place to the Executors named therein; in either case, Sir John, Vicar of Ermington, was to act as supervisor (Bishop's Register).
- 1400.—Special license was granted, May 16, to the inhabitants of the village "de Nasse" (Noss Mayo) to have Divine Service in their Chapel of St. John the Baptist on his feast, and on ferial days, at his own charges, and saving the rights of the mother Church, to which they were to resort on Sundays and other Festivals. (Bishop's Register).
- 1466.—Grant to the Mayor and commonalty of the town of Plymouth, co. Devon, that as the said town and Stonehouse, Crymell Passage, Worston Passage, *Yalam*, and other places to Ramhede on the West and Gorneworth on the East, lie open to the sea to the King's enemies, and these and pirates have come thither and burnt a great part of the town and spoiled the inhabitants, killing some and taking others prisoners, and have carried off chalices and jewels and other ornaments of the Church, they may sue before the Pope for apostolic bulls for the excommunication of any such pirates who may attempt the like, which will give them great security (Calendar of Patent Rolls, Nov. 25, Membrane 18).
- 1467.—General pardon to (many persons, amongst whom is) Thomas Prendergast, late of Yealmpton, co. Devon, yoman, of all offences against any statute touching liveries of cloths and hoods or other statutes committed by them before Christmas last for 20s. - 4d. only paid in the hanaper (*ibid.* May 9, Membrane 15).
- 1484.—Grant during pleasure from Michaelmas last to the King's servant Roger Hartlington, one of the yeoman of the crown, of the office of steward of the lordships of Stokenham, *Ycalhampton*, and Langacre and the hundred of Colrige, Co. Devon, with the accustomed fees from the issues of the lordships and all other profits (*ibid.* August 9, Membrane 7).
- 1485.—Grant for life to the King's servant John Walshe, alias Fawcon, of an annuity of £40 from the issues of the King's lordships or manors of Chedsey, Co. Somerset, and *Yelhampton*, Co. Devon (*ibid.* May 9, Membrane 24).

1543.—Att Otelande the XXII. off July, being than present as before.*

A letter was written to the Shereff off the Countye off Devonshire to putt in possession one John Halleswell in certayne landes wythin the parisshe off Yalmeton, Ermington, and Brixton, wythin the sayde Countie; whiche landes forasmuch as one Richard Stroode hadde unjustly usurped contrary to twoo severall decrees made on that behalff, and had not permitted the sayde Halleswell quietly to possesse the same according to the tenour off the twoo sayde decrees, and a letter also written on that behalff from the Cownsell, a commandement was geven to the said Sheref to charge the sayde John (*sic*) Stroode to appere before the Cownsell the XVIth off October next ensuing.

“Soon after the first summons of representatives to Parliament, the lesser boroughs, though they had been induced to return burgesses several times from a motive of ambition, were willing to decline the honour . . . on plea of poverty or other pretence . . . and prevailed upon the sheriff to omit summoning them for the future. Those in the South Hams were Lidford, Modbury, Kingsbridge, Cornworthy, Denbury, Newton Abbot, *Yealmpton*.” (*Devon Transactions*)

Devonshire. To the Constable of the parishe of Yealmpton, or to either of *these, these,*

Whereas I have received a warrant from the Right Worshipful Sir Edward Gyles and Sir Richard Keynell, Knights, and Thomas fford and Richard Cabell esquires, Justices of the peace of the County aforesaid for the payinge of the sum of £50 out of the 15 hundred of the South devision of the Countie aforesaid, for and towards the reparon (reparation) of the great decay of the Dart Bridge and Church Bridge in the p(ar)ishes of Ashb(ur)ton and Buckfastlie. These are to will and require you to leavie upon your parishe ye sum of 7s. 4d., and the same to bring unto me att or before the 13th daye of this instant December; and, if any refuse, to paye the sune by you assessed, that you return his or their names unto me at the time aforesaid, that such further course may be taken as to law and Justice shall (appertayn?) Faile you not at your p(er)ills Under my hand the third daye of December, 1634.

Your lovinge friend, Elize Stert.
rec. the aforesaid sune of 7s. 4d.
by me Elize Stert.

*The Lords Russell, Lords Privye Seale; Thierle off Hertford, Lorde Grent Chamberlayne; the Lord Lisle, Lord Admirall; The Bishops off Winchester and Westminster; Sir John Gage; Sir Anthony Browne; Sir Anthony Wingfield; Sir Thomas Wriothesley; Mr. Pagett.

Devon. By virtue of A Statutte made in the 43rd yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lady Queene Elizabeth, intituled an Act for the releife of the poore, these are to will and require you whose names are here under written that you, togeather with the Church wardens of your parishe for the tyme beinge, doe accordinge to the same Statutte take order from tyme to tyme for this yeare to come, for the settinge to worke of the poore within your parishe, And for the raisinge of a Convenient Stock of some ware or Stuffle in your parishe to that purpose, And for the providinge of necessary releife for such of the lame, and, impotent among you, and for the placinge of apprentices and children whose parents are not able to maintain them. Hereof fail not at your p(er)ills. Given at Windsor under our hands and Seales the last day of M(ar)ch Anno Domini 1638.

Nicholas Canning

Nicholas Pollexfen

—— Marwood and Peter Alger

overseers of poore within Alex Maynard

the p(ar)ishe of Yealmpton

Robert Amery

Devonshire. By virtue of a Statute made in the 43rd yeare of the Raigne of our late Sovereigne Lady Queen Elizabeth, Intituled an Act for the Relief of the poore, These are to will and require you whose names are heare under written that together with the Churchwardens of your parishe for the tyme being, Doe (accordinge to the same Statute) take order from tyme to tyme, for this yeare to come, for the setting to worke of the poore within your parishe, and for the Raising of a convenient stock of some ware or Stuffle in your parish to that purpose, and for the providing of necessary reliefe for such as be lame and impotent amongst you, and for the placing as apprentices such children whose parents are not able to maynetayne them. And hereof see that you fayle not at your p(er)ills. Dated att Plympton under our hands and seales, the 13th day, of Aprill Ano Decimo octavo Regis Caroli 1642

Thomas Hele

To Henry Pollexfen, gent.
and Mychaell fford, churchwarden,
and to ffrancis Crocker, gent.

Peter Alger and

Nicholas Walke overseers

of the poore of Yealmpto(n)

John Howes

Robert Amery

○

○

○

Agreement between William Gaye and Simon Prideaux Churchwardens to rough cast the tower of Yealmpton Church for £14 of good and legal money, Signed April 17, 1671.

The condition of this present obligation is such that if the above bounden William Gaye, at or after (?) the beginning of May next comming after the date hereof, well and sufficiently rough cast according to the art of rough casting, or cause to be well and sufficiently rough casted the church tower of the parish abovesaid, from the ground to the topp, finding all necessary instruments that are needful to such worke, as ropes, cables, pulleys, and the like, except only the cradle, lime, sand, earth, and . . . which are to be brought in convenient place by the said Symon Prideaux or his assignes. . . .

And also if the said William Gaye shall hereafter from time to time, for and during the full time and terme of foure yeares from the day of the date hereof fully to be accomplished and ended, repayre, sustaine and, maintaine well and suffciently the said rough cast so as that the sayd tower may receive no damage through his default or neglect, or cause the sayd rough cast, to be well and sufficiently repayed, sustained, and maintained, and during the said terme of foure yeares, that then the present obligation to be utterly voyde, or else to remain (?) in full force and virtue.

Signed sealed and delivered
in presence of
Daniel Moore sen.
Thomas Spicer
John Spicer
Churchwardens.

William Gaye O



A FAMOUS NURSERY RHYME.

The adventures of old Mother Hubbard and her dog are known all the world over, but few know where the poem was written. This honour the parish of Yealmpton can claim. Mr. W. E. P. Bastard has kindly supplied the author of this History with the following particulars:—

At Kitley, Yealmpton, the seat of the Bastard family, is a small volume about four inches square, illustrated with little woodcuts. Inside this book is this note:—

“Original Presentation Copy of Mother Hubbard, written at Kitley by Sarah Catherine Martin and dedicated to John Pollexfen Bastard, M.P. Mother Hubbard was, as is believed, the housekeeper at Kitley at that time.”

Then follows the dedication:—

“To J. P. B., Esqr., M.P., County of..... at whose suggestion and at whose House these Notable Sketches were designed. this volume is with all suitable deference dedicated by His Humble Servant,

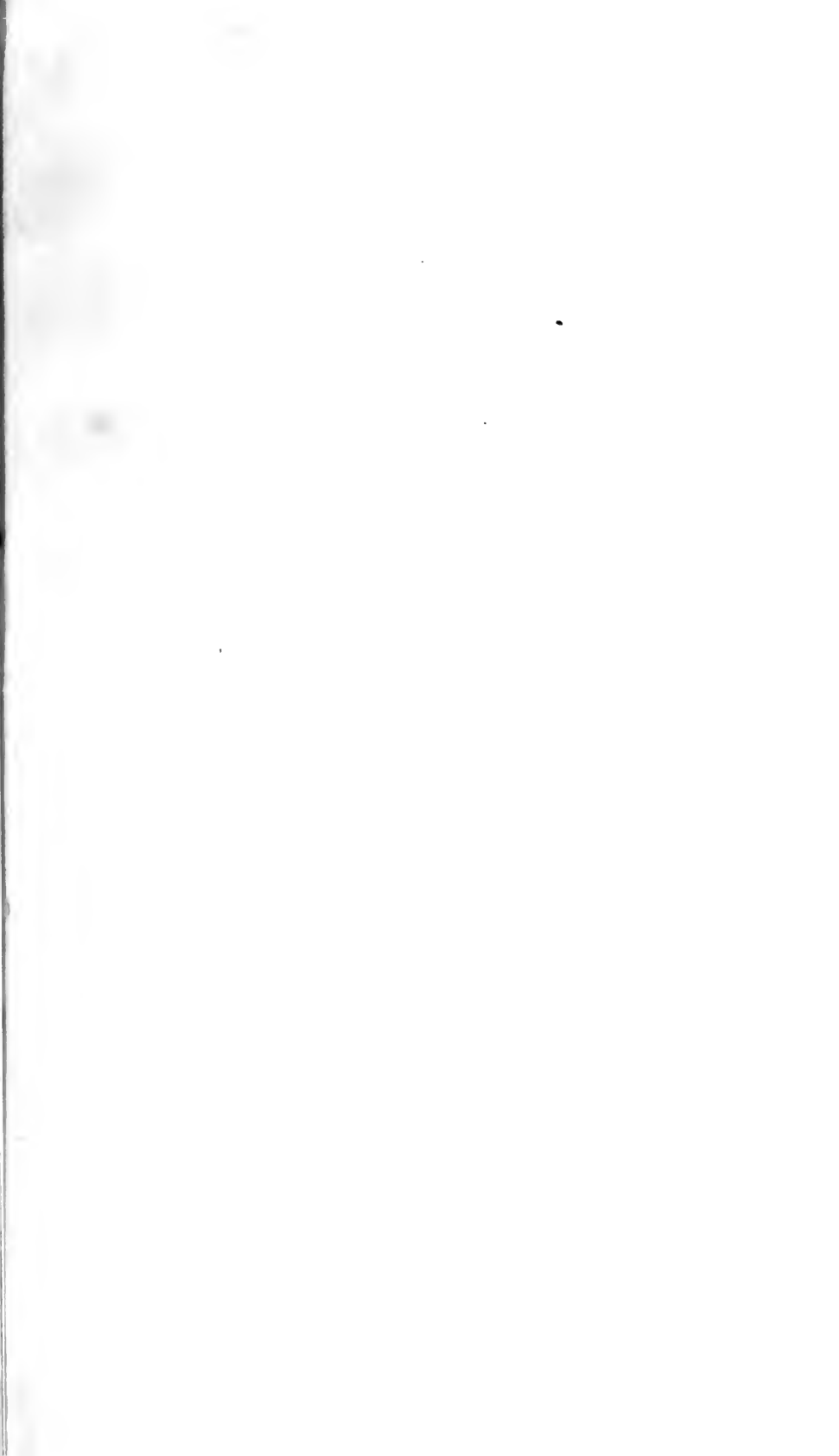
S. C. M.

Published June 1, 1805.

The correct title of the book is:—

“The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and her Dog.”



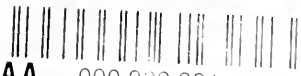




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